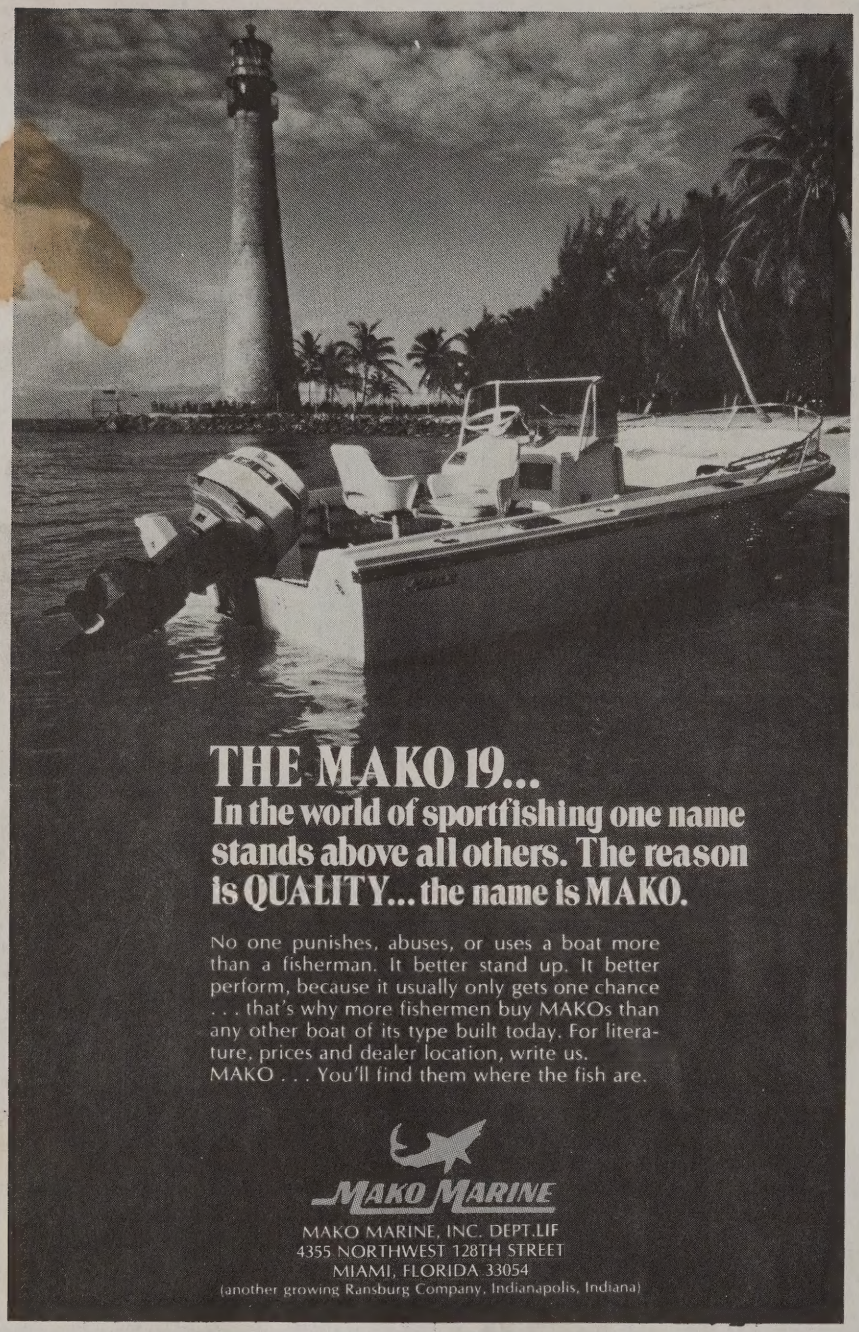
20¢

The Long Island FISHERMAN

MAY 24th, ISSUE NO. 19, 1973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AL REINFELDER IN CANOEING ACCIDENT - APPARENTLY DROWNED

Al Reinfelder was shooting the rapids of the Delaware River near Barryville on Friday morning, May 18th with his son Jesse and one of Jesse's friends when his canoe was swamped in the exceptionally high, fast water.

The three managed to hold onto the canoe and Al instructed the boys, who were wearing life jackets, to swim for shore. Apparently after seeing that the boys were making it safely, he too tried to swim to safety.

A witness at the Barryville Bridge reported seeing the boys swim to shore and the overturned canoe, but he did not see Al.

An extensive search followed and although the canoe was located 2½ miles downstream, no sign of Al could be found. He is presumed drowned.

ADIRONDACK AND CATSKILL PUBLIC CAMPSITES OPEN

Public campsites in the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves will open for the season on the evening of May 18, 1973, Commissioner of Environmental Conservation Henry L. Diamond announced on May 15, 1973.

Rates will be the same as last year: $2.50 per night or $17.50 per week. A day use service charge of $1.00 per car remains in effect for those utilizing day use facilities.

The policy regarding pets at campsites under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Conservation remains the same as in previous years. Household pets are permitted, however they must be confined on a leash restricting them to the immediate tentsite area of the owner. Proof of a rabies inoculation is required.

During the summer season more than one million individuals are expected to stay at one of the forty-four campsites maintained and operated by the Department of Environmental Conservation.

For further information, call: Arthur Woldt (518) 457-5400.

The Long Island
FISHERMAN
THE LARGEST WEEKLY GUIDE FOR FISHERMEN IN THE N.Y. AREA

VOL. 8, NO. 19 MAY 24, 1973

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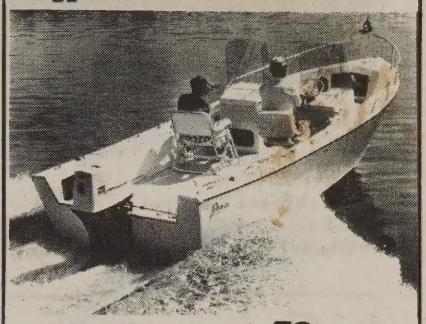
FRONT PAGE PHOTO

They said it couldn't be done, but Jerry Gomber nailed this 38 pound bass in Croton Bay, Hudson River. He was using 10 pound test line and casting a Garcia Mee-Mee at dusk. Photo by The Outdoorsmen, Ltd.

pro-line



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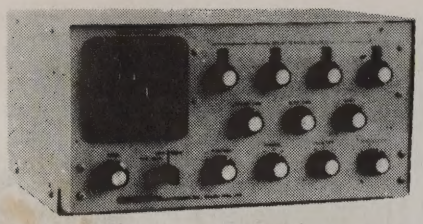

LM-800 LORAN

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CHUM LINES

Launching Ramps

Maybe you can help me with my problem. There was an article somewhere, that I read on where to get a list of boat launching ramps in Nassau & Suffolk County. I'd appreciate it very much if you could tell me where this list could be obtained. Maybe some other readers would be interested also. - Fred Meier, Lindenhurst, N.Y.

The list of launching ramps for Nassau and Suffolk Counties may be obtained by sending one dollar, with your name and complete address, to: Nassau County Fish and Game Association, P.O. Box 245, Rockville Centre, New York 11570.

Nostalgia

Your front page photo of young Peter Foss fishing off the dock sure brought back memories. I got a big kick at that grin of his. Some 45 or 50 years ago, my younger brother and I used to go to the Hudson River at West 79 St., Manhattan, with 10 cents worth of worms and fish off an old dock for tommies. My brother would always complain about the cold wind, but when our little bell jingled, a big grin would come onto his face. We used to catch tommy cod & eels which we would take home to Mom who would fry them, and we always enjoyed the meal. Thanks for that bit of nostalgia. I remain always waiting for next week's issue. - John Shoopner.

We've made at least two people happy with the cover. Peter Foss and John Shoopner. Glad you enjoyed it - that makes everything worthwhile!

Eyeless Hooks

Recently, I was given an assortment of fishing hooks that do not have leaders or eye loops on them. I have tied my own leaders to eyed-hooks, but have never tied a leader to a hook without eyes. Could you please send me instructions on how to tie leaders to these eyeless hooks? Thank you. - A. Barilli, East Meadow, L.I.

Tying leaders to eyeless hooks is not one of our fortes, and none of the manufacturers' catalogs in the office make any reference to this dandy problem. Can any of the readers be of assistance to Mr. Barilli? [And ourselves.]

MORE CORN

The following is a letter received by James L. Harvey, Copiague, New York from the Middle Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Center at the Sandy Hook Marine Laboratory:

Dear Mr. Harvey:

Thank you for your observations on the effects of corn chum upon flounders. Within the last year we have received a number of inquiries on whether flounder died from an inability to digest corn. If, as I interpret your letter the corn actually burst the gut and entered the body cavity, the fish may have real problems.

SOMETHING NEW TO **SEA** FROM

Morrow

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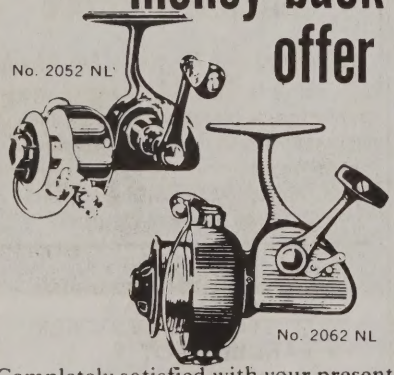

Completely satisfied with your present reel? Here's a challenge you can't pass up! First buy a 2062 NL, 2052 NL, 2081A or 2091A on trial. Try it for a month. If it isn't the best spinning reel you've ever used, return it to us (Shakespeare Company, Dept. G, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49001) with your dated sales receipt within 30 days of the purchase date. We'll pay back every cent you paid, so you can buy any reel you think is better.

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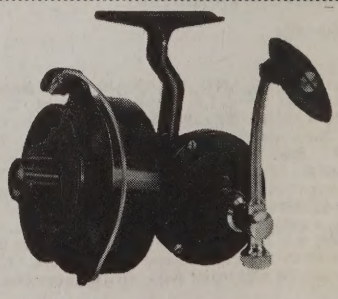

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I know the people at the New York Department of Environmental Conservation have received similar inquiries, and I contacted Mr. Phil Briggs of their Marine Division. Mr. Briggs is planning to capture a group of winter flounder within the next few days in order to set up an experiment which should resolve the question. He will set up sample lots of fish and feed 1) natural food, 2) half corn/half natural, and 3) corn diets to different lots and measure condition and mortality among the samples.

We will keep in touch with Mr. Briggs to determine the outcome of his study, but you may also wish to do so. His address: New York Department of Environmental Conservation, P.O. Box 1005, Setauket, Long Island, New York 11733.

The corn technique seems to be a carryover from freshwater fishing, and interestingly New Hampshire has banned its use in fresh water. We'll have to see what happens with the flounder experiment.

The letter was dated May 10, 1973. We at The Long Island Fisherman, as well as many others, to be sure, will be anxiously awaiting the results of this study by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation. Hopefully, some definitive results will be forthcoming in the very near future: a specific answer to this question should be available to fishermen.

STRIPER TAGGING CONTEST SPONSORED BY STRIPED BASS FUND

A Tag and Release Contest to aid striped bass research and to stimulate interest in the Striped Bass Fund will begin Saturday, May 12, 1973 and will run through October 31, 1973. Participating tackle shops and marinas in New Jersey and Staten Island have entry blanks, tags and rules.

Stripers 16" and over tagged in waters under jurisdiction of the State of New Jersey, or in waters normally fished out of New Jersey ports (from Jones Inlet, Long Island to Ocean City, Maryland), will be eligible for the contest entrants tally.

Each participating store will award monthly prizes and each month there will be state-wide prizes as well as final Grand Prizes.

Sponsorship blanks, tags and contest rules can be obtained at the following stores: In New York, Santo's on Staten Island. In New Jersey at Julian's, Atlantic Highlands; Giglio's, Seabright; M & V Tackle, Brielle; Point Pleasant Hardware, Point Pleasant; Colvin's, Seaside Park; Jean and Art's, Seaside Park; Bill and Judy's, Seaside Park; Outdoorsmen Limited, Fort Lee; Captain Andy's Marina, Atlantic City; Jack Blade's, Atlantic City; Wacki Whale Marina, Margate; Circle Marina, Brigantine; Huff's Sporting Goods, Union; and Fairfield Tackle, Fairfield.

The Striped Bass Fund is an organization formed to support research, education and where necessary, litigation to protect and enhance the striped bass fishery on both coasts.

For further information, please phone Rod Vandivert (516) 587—3811

SEVENSTRAND CONTEST

Sevenstrand Tackle Co. will be starting an exciting new contest very soon. It will be a PHOTO CONTEST. They'll be looking for photos of fish taken on their PSYCHOSQUIDS, Sevenstrand's "knock 'em dead" offshore trolling lure. Winners will receive a $25.00 grab bag value of Psychosquids. Winning photos and details of the catch will appear in L.I.F.

The contest runs from June 10 thru August 20, 1973. ALL entrants will receive 2 FREE No. 200 Psychosquids.

Photos and all particulars should be sent to:

Psychosquid Photo Contest
c/o Dick Wood
13 First Street
Ocean City, N.J. 08226

UNLICENSED BOAT SINKS OFF RHODE ISLAND

A converted ferry operating as a gypsy party boat broke up and disintegrated off the coast of Rhode Island on Saturday, May 19th. According to George Glas, vice president of the National Party Boat Owners Alliance, the vessel operated out of Wickford, R.I., scavenging passengers in Galilee who had been unable to book a day's fishing on one of the professional boats. Glas also reported that William Jackson, the operator, was not licensed as required by Federal Law and the vessel itself carried no certificate to indicate that it was safe as a vessel for hire. Five people are missing and seven others are known dead. An expensive lesson for fishermen to remember to deal only with reputable, licensed captains, operating safe, certified party boats.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF A PHONY SHRIMP SNAPPED HIS TAIL AT YOU?

HIT HIM!

(SO WOULD A WEAKFISH, SEA TROUT, RED or STRIPER!)
BUY THE ONLY PLASTIC SHRIMP IN THE WORLD DESIGNED TO SNAP HIS TAIL, WIGGLE HIS FEELERS and SHAKE HIS LEGS. LOOKS and SMELLS REAL, TOO!

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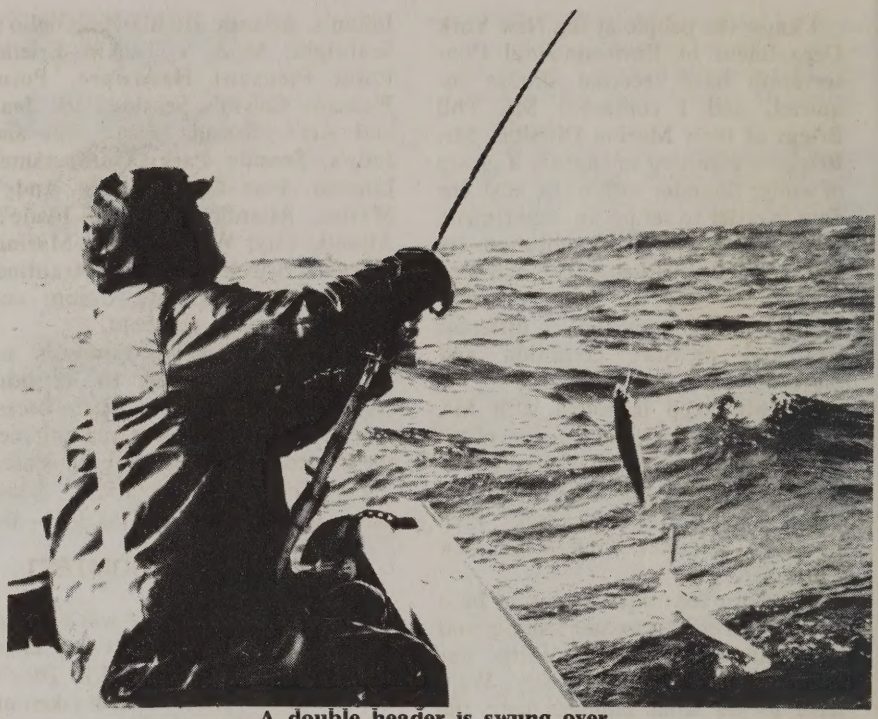
MACKEREL- THE LITTLE JUMBO

by Ron Onorato



A double header is swung over.

After spending a couple of weeks sharpening up on flounders, most anglers are more than ready to tackle one of the earlier gamefish to arrive in Long Island waters, the Mackerel. Mackerel fishing has become very popular in the last decade due mainly to the great abundance of these fish. Tackle techniques will vary according to where the fish are being sought, and how the angler wishes to fish for them.

Mackerel are the smallest representatives of the tuna-type fishes available to Long Island anglers. Nature created these fish without air bladders; they must swim continuously from birth, or perish. This is one reason why mackerel are such strong fighting fish.

They are very easy to identify: Long and streamlined like bullets, mackerel have silver bellies and greenish and black mottling on their backs.

The mackerel is a migratory fish that prefers cool water temperatures. The first few fish arrive on the south shore of Long Island on about the second or third week in April. A few days later the main body of fish arrives. The past several years have seen early arrivals of these small gamesters, as early as the second week of April. The departure of the mackerel depends on two things, the arrival of bluefish and the increase in water temperature. Usually the fish settle off the South shore for the first two weeks of May and then swim into Long Island Sound for the rest of the month. With the coming of June, most of the fish have departed for their summer grounds up north.

The average Boston mackerel will weigh about one pound, with a few fish over 2 pounds: Almost every season someone will catch a fish over 3 pounds. Since for the most part the fish are on the small side, the tackle should be proportionately light. Most people who fish for mackerel will do so from a party boat that is often crowded, so the angler must use gear that will not interfere with the fishing of others.

The tackle used depends upon how many fish the angler wants to keep. A light, limber boat rod of 6 or 7 foot length and a matching reel of 20 pound test line will be good for the angler that prefers conventional gear. If one likes spinning tackle, a medium action rod 7 or 8 feet in length and matching reel of 15 pound monofilament will be most practical. Light tackle can be broken out if the angler is fishing from an uncrowded boat: A 5½ or 6 foot light action rod with matching reel of 4 or 6 pound line will give the angler all the thrills mackerel can give.

Mackerel school very densely, and for that reason most anglers are able to catch them three or four at a time. These fish feed primarily on small baitfish and are often seen chasing small spearing and bunkers through the water. They are caught almost exclusively on artificial lures, and the basic lure used is the Diamond jig with several small tubes tied ahead of the jig. If the fish are fairly deep, a jig of 2 or 3 ounces may be needed to get down faster. For fish near the top, a 1 ounce jig may suffice. The small tubes are called tinker tubes and can be either bought in a tackle store or made by the angler.

If the angler prefers to make his own tubes, it is easily done by first purchasing several feet of 3/16" shiny surgical tubing in red, yellow or green. The tubing is then cut in 1½ to 2" lengths. These short tubes are slid over the shanks of long shank hooks in sizes 1 or 1/0.Next, he takes a four foot length of 30 pound leader material and attaches a snap at the end, this is for attaching the Diamond jig. At intervals of six to eight inches above the jig, the angler attaches the tubes (as many as he wants). The other end of the leader should be attached to the line via means of a barrel swivel.

The best way to find fish is by covering all levels of the water from bottom to top until you locate the level at which the fish are feeding. The entire rig is lowered to the bottom and the jigging begins. If there is no action, take in a few feet of line and jig again. This process is repeated until the right level of feeding fish is discovered.

The angler will be more successful if he decides to chum for the fish. Mackerel respond very well to ground mossbunker, but chum very lightly.

One or two gallons should be more than enough for a day's fishing. The chum is diluted with seawater until very thin and then ladled over the side at the rate of about one scoop every 5 or 6 minutes.

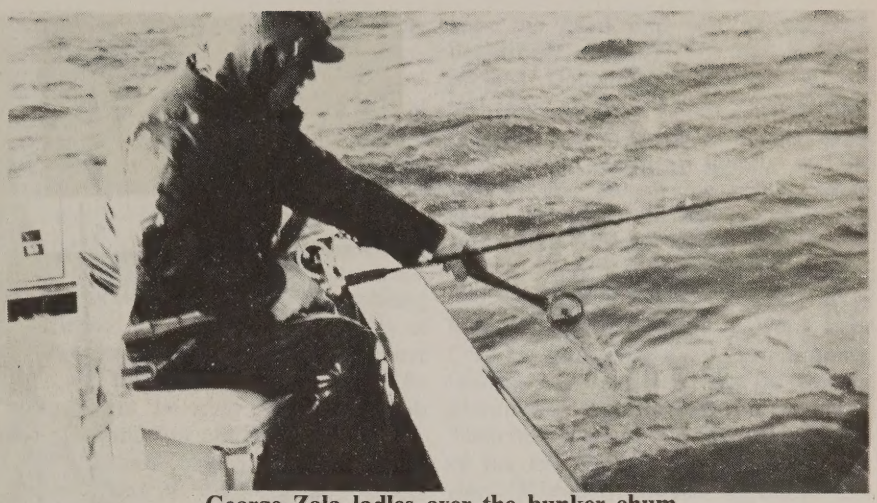
The best way to fish is to drift and chum; in this manner a boat can stay with a school of fish for the entire day. This method is best on a calm day. On rough days it may be necessary to anchor while fishing.

The average angler can end up with a couple of hundred fish on a good day. If he can **use** all these fish, great! If not, they should be returned to the water. Even with light tackle, a good catch can be made.

Fly rodding for mackerel has been very popular with some fishermen. When conditions are right, these fish will respond eagerly to a bright streamer or wet fly. A couple of mackerel on the fly rod will make believers out of trout men.

Other light lures used for casting include the small, silver Rebels, Hopkins' and Kastmasters. These are best fished with light spinning tackle.

When the fish move in to the south shore grounds the entire partyboat fleet is deployed to handle them and the fishermen. Sheepshead Bay, Freeport, and Captree all have boats sailing for mackerel when the run is on. Since the crowds are heavy, even during weekdays, it is wise to secure your spot in advance. The average cost for a party boat trip for mackerel fishing is about $11.00.



George Zola ladles over the bunker chum.

If the angler wants to tackle the fish from a skiff or small outboard he must wait until the fish move into shallower waters. Here the fisherman can use the type of tackle that he wishes. To find the fish, follow the fishing reports and check with local bait and tackle stores, and with any of the numerous boat liveries.

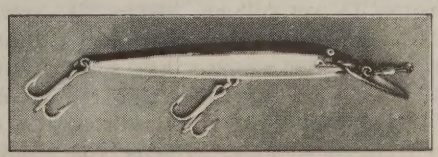
The shore caster need not be left out of the action. There are many times when mackerel range close enough to shore for the surfcaster to get a shot at them. Last year, the mackerel made brief forays along such north shore spots as Bayville Beach, Stehli's Beach, and Sunken Meadow Beach. Along the south shore mackerel were caught from the Breezy Point jetty, East Rockaway jetty, among other places.

Mackerel fishing is fast and furious, and most anglers will agree that the mackerel is a little jumbo.

Mrs. Jean Hancock and her 23 lb. 4½ oz. 1972 Massachusetts state record Blue taken off Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts on a CD18BM Rapala Magnum.

Rapala Magnums murder on blues and stripers time after time.

The original Rapala Magnum is one tough saltwater lure. Puncture proof. Perfectly balanced for speed trolling. Leak proof. Heavier for the time-after-time trophy saltwater catches like the big Blue you see here. Fact is, the biggest fish in the sea are waiting to be taken by Rapala. Rapala Magnums. In both floating and sinking models. Accept no imitations.



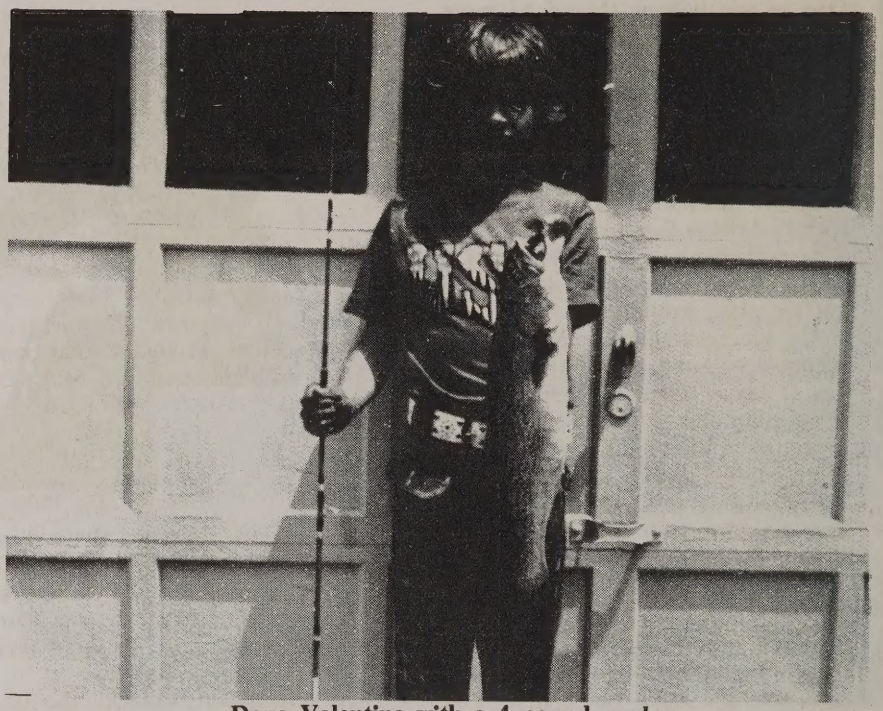
Original Rapala Magnum

Normark
1710 East 78th St., Minneapolis, Minn. 55423

A WEAKFISH STORY

by

Robert H. Schaefer



Doug Valentine with a 4 pound weak.

The door bell rang just as the 11 o'clock news was going on. It was my son's buddy, Douglas Valentine, who lives next door.

"Is the fishing trip still on?" he asked.

"Right on! See you at 6 AM. Bring the usual stuff - sandwiches, soda, and tackle."

Doug left, and I got ready to turn in. As I shut off the light, I noticed the TV in the den was still on.

"Scott, I called to my son, "Go to bed."

"But I want to see this movie", he answered,

"Do you want to go fishing tomorrow?"

"Yes, but I want to watch the movie, too."

Well, it was his decision. He's nine now, and it's time he started resolving conflicts of this nature for himself. I wasn't going to tell him what to do. Sure as shooting, he wouldn't be able to get up in the morning if he stayed up much later. I knew that, but it seemed like he was going to have to find it out for himself.

The alarm woke me at 6 AM sharp. I was up and dressed quickly. As I passed the den, I saw Scott asleep on the couch, the TV set still on. "Scott," I said, touching him gently, "Wake up." No response. I tried again, a little more forcefully this time. Nothing. A third try still did not produce any reaction from him. "Well," I thought, "I hope you enjoyed that movie."

I went out to the boat and started loading the equipment. Doug showed up a few minutes later.

"Put your stuff in the boat and get in the car while I finish hooking up the trailer," I said.

"Okay. Where's Scott?"

"He's still asleep. I couldn't wake him up. We'll just have to go without him."

There was no traffic as we drove down to the launching ramp at Asharoken beach, but two empty boat trailers were already in the parking lot. We launched the boat and started the engine so it could warm up while I parked the car. Doug busied himself stowing our rods and tidying up the other gear, making the "Honest Lil" ship shape. Doug was a good shipmate, and I was glad to have him along.

When we were squared away, Doug cast off and I set course for Duck Island Harbor. Nearing it, we saw a few boats fishing at anchor in the little bay east of the harbor. We kept on and finally headed up the channel that runs into the narrow harbor-mouth. We could now see one boat anchored close to the west bank. Keeping clear of it, I cut the engine so we would drift across the widest part of the harbor entrance. The tide was just starting to go out, and the sun now looked like it would break through the early morning haze. Everything was perfect except that Scott wasn't with us.

I opened my tackle box and got out a Salty Dog lure. I tied it onto Doug's line, showing him how to make a perfect clinch-knot in the process. He reeled up the slack until the lure was about ten inches from the rod tip and, snapping the light spinning rod like a whip, made a perfect cast. As Doug made his retrieve, I started to tie on my Salty Dog. Suddenly Doug shouted, "I got one! Get the net!"

The net! Oh, no! The net was still at home in the garage. Fortunately there was a gaff tucked away against a bulkhead. I grabbed it and leaned over the side in preparation for the fish. Doug was working him carefully, mindful of the weak jaw-structure for which the fish is named. Doug kept the rod upright as best he could against the fight the fish was making.

"There he is!", Doug shouted. The boy was beyond talking in a normal voice now. I saw the fish too, shining silvery in the water below the boat. He darted about in short, violent dashes, bending the rod double. The fish wasn't played out by any means and still had plently of fight left in him. Slowly, carefully, Doug raised him higher in the water, leading him to my gaff. I stretched out toward him as he came close to the surface. Suddenly the fish became free, flipped his tail at us, and dove toward the bottom. Doug stood limply at the gunwale, his rod resting on the rail.

"Sorry, Doug, but I just couldn't get the gaff to him."

"That's okay. We'll get more. It's your turn now."

I cast my line out and started the slow retrieve. Ka-wham! The light rod almost jumped out of my hand, and line tore off the reel. I waited until he'd

finished his run, then turned him around and started him toward the boat. He was coming in nicely now and I was sure I had him under control. Out of the corner of my eye I could see that Doug had picked up the gaff and was peering into the water where my line disappeared. Then we saw the fish coming up from the depths of the murky water. He also saw us and made a dash away from the boat. His sudden spurt took me by surprise, and he threw the hook. Silver sides flashing, he was gone in an instant.

We were speechless. We had hooked two weaks in two casts, had brought the fish right up to the boat, but our fish box was empty. The penalty for forgetting the net was very high. We began to fish again, and very quickly Doug hooked another one. But it was the same story all over. I couldn't tell if the jaws were actually tearing, or if they were simply throwing the hook. I guess it doesn't matter because the net (ouch!) effect was the same: No fish.

We continued to cast but after that initial flurry of action, when we had three fish on within five minutes, the fishing slowed down to zero. Our drift across the mouth of the harbor had brought us to the east bank, so I started the engine and drove slowly to the west side, a little further out from the shore than the boat already anchored there.

That net; the cursed, never-to-be--forgotten-again net that was left at home! I was absolutely miserable. It began to look as though those lost weaks were the only ones we were destined to catch, for try as we might, we couldn't get another strike. I inched the "Honest Lil" toward the other boat, getting as close as I could without being rude about it. There was still plenty of water between us, enough so that there was no problem casting. Still, the fishermen in the other boat caught fish and we came up empty-handed.

More boats moved into the area, some drifting as we were, and others anchored in back of us by the east bank. But the anglers in that first boat continued to be the only ones catching fish. They were drifting now and were more than half way to the east bank. I started the engine and moved to their original position, cut the engine and started a drift on this line and not interfere with each other.

Then,"Pow!" Doug's rod became alive in his hands! He stuck the butt against his hip and began to pump it, getting back a little line each time. The reel sang as the weak overpowered the drag-setting and took line, but the kid kept his head and worked the fish beautifully. Silently, lips tightly compressed, Doug fought the fish. As the fish came up from astern I leaned over the transom with the gaff; the weak broke water and lay quietly on the surface just out of my reach. Doug eased the exhausted fish in closer so I could ram the gaff home.

I tried to slip the gaff into his gill: I had never gaffed a fish before but this is how I'd been told to do it. Doug kept the line tight while I fumbled around. Gaffing the fish was tricky for he had just enough fight left to avoid the hook. Then he was free! The lure popped out of his mouth and Doug's line went slack. Strangely, the fish lay motionless on the surface, either not realizing he was free, or too tired to dash safely back to the depths - in an instant he would be gone, and I had but one chance left to get him. Swiftly, I drove the gaff into his middle and swooped him up into the boat with a sweep of my arm. He was ours!

That marked the beginning of the flood of weakfish, and it seemed as though they had us surrounded. Every few minutes one of us would get a strike and the other would drop his rod and

Continued on page 17

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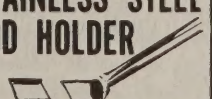

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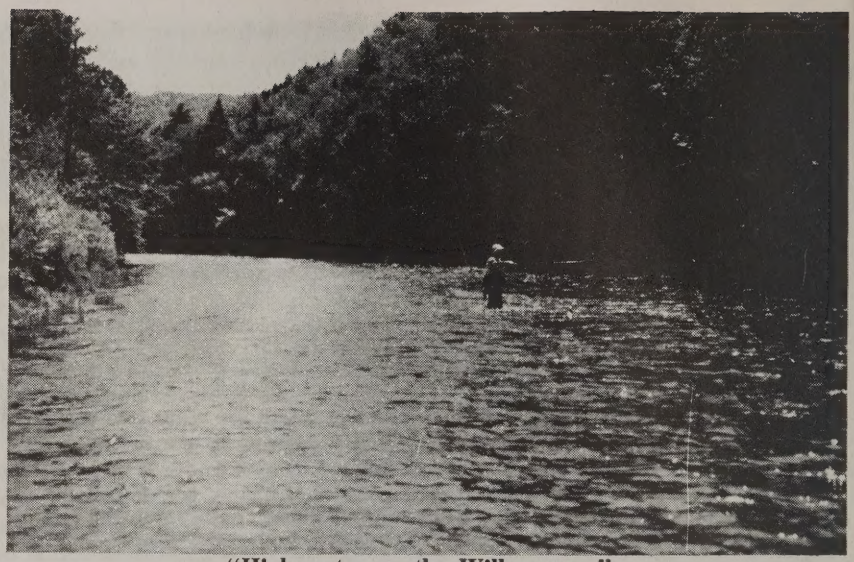
CATSKILL TROUT PART IV

by Leonard S. Baum



"High water on the Willowemoc."

After 10 minutes my 3x leader still was strained to the limit but the brown that fell for the weighted #10 Green Drake nymph (Schweibert's Dark Ephemera) stubbornly stood his ground. I really wanted this trout. Minutes before, I had lost his grandfather, or his father, anyway. That fish took me up and down the pool for 10 minutes before he tired of the game. On his final run upstream he dove for the boulders and rubble in the deepest part of the pool. I felt that sickening grating on the leader and, too late, I eased the pressure. Pop! and the largest brown I ever hooked was gone. The fish I was now playing was much, much smaller but even so he was very strong. Once I had him worked out of the heavy water and over the gravel, I strained to keep him there. Finally, he tired and was quickly netted, measured at 18", and then this unmistakenly stream-bred fish was released. Yes, released just like the 15" brown that was landed minutes later and the other 10" - 14" browns landed that day. The Big Hole or Beaverhead in Montana? No, the "no-kill", the fish for fun section of the Beaverkill, just a few hours from the homes of almost every Long Island fly-fisherman. Although the Beaverkill has been deemed the cradle of dry fly fishing in the United States, overfishing, if not pollution, reduced its legendary greatness so that in 1965 Al McClane's Standard Fishing Encyclopedia stated that "a 10-incher looks good on most days, and a 14-inch fish is remarkable." The late Ray Bergman, in "Trout", had described keeper Beaverkill trout in pounds and indeed this hallowed river drew the greatest fly fishermen of our age: Theodore Gordon, Edward Hewitt, George M.L. LaBranche, Albert Hendrickson, Richard Robbins and Ray Steenrod, not to mention more recent notables such as Al McClane and Ernest Schweibert. Fortunately, our Conservation Department used the last half of the 1960's to restore the river to its former greatness through the institution of no-kill regulations, and the fishing today is fantastic. Nowadays, I expect Beaverkill and Willowemoc trout to **average** 10 inches. Fourteen inch fish are common, if not plentiful, and I expect at least a few of these each trip. Furthermore, 15" to 18" and larger fish are not at all uncommon. Random entries in my diary reflect the following catches:

Under the high, off color water conditions of June 9, 1972, I landed 14 browns to 18" and lost that BIG brown described in the beginning of this article. But I deserved to lose Mr. BIG. Don Sperling, my trout fishing companion that day, must have thought so, too. The week before we were fishing the same pool at almost the same spot. Don had just added ½ lead strip to swing his #12 March Brown nymph deep at the head of the pool. Moments later his reel was screaming as he followed a brown brute all over the stream. Don is an accomplished fisherman, from stripers, blues and tuna to fly-caught salmon and huge brookies in Labrador, not to mention a few streams on the Continent. He swore that no salmon pulled harder than that brown. Don's fate was a precursor to my own as his brown finally wrapped the leader around a rock and popped it like a thread. Mercilessly I "instructed" Don on how not to horse these fish on light leaders: Too soon, the worm turned!

How big are these Beaverkill browns? Well, a few weeks later, Don's friend landed a 25" brown from that same pool and an 18" fish, too - the same day! I have heard of bigger fish.

On May 28, 1972, I took 12 browns 10" - 16" on dries and nymphs; one June afternoon, 1971, 13 browns to 15" on Female Grannom, Badger Spiders and assorted small dries; May 13, 1970, 17 browns to 14" on Adams, Cream Caddis and Henryville dries; July 12, 1969, 8';00 A.M. to noon, 24 browns 9" - 13" on #20 - 24 Black Jassids; June 19, 1969, 5 - 9 P.M., 12 browns 8" - 15", Dark Blue Sedge and Light Cahill (very pale) dries; June 11, 1969, 5 - 9 P.M., 14 browns 9" - 12", #14 Dark Blue Sedge dry; July 10, 13, 17, 1968, a total of 31 browns, fishing 2 hours each morning, 10" - 16", mostly on #20 Black and Blue Dun Jassids (lost approximately 18" - 20" fish on sinking #14 Black Ant).

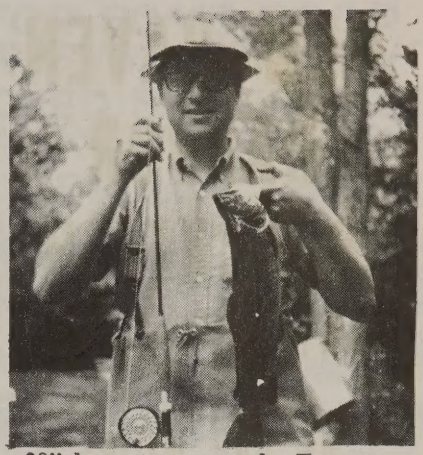
Unfortunately, when I'm at the family summer home near Phoenicia, New York, I'm restricted to fishing the Esopus and Chichester and I can't steal enough time to frequent the Beaverkill and Willowemoc, which are far superior fly-fishing stream. The fly life there is abundant and diverse, the hatches frequent, the water clear and easily wadable and the fish highly sophisticated, wary and selective. On the slick, smooth pools casting skill and length and diameter of leaders are critical. Knowledge of entomology and

fly patterns is essential to assure consistent success. On the other hand, the beginner can toss his flies over these waters with knowledge that he's covering zillions of trout. Even when the river appears lifeless and barren, those fish are there crowding every inch of holding water. It's nice to know that even if it's not the right time, you're in the right place; that when the fish get real hungry, or when you learn the right trick, you're in for action. And if you hit the stream when one of those great Hendrickson or March Brown hatches is on, or when those real sockers are gobbling giant Green Drakes, or when the Caddis fill the air like flakes in a snowstorm, believe me - you'll never forget it.

Although the patterns described in my earlier articles on the Esopus included most of the flies you will need of the Beaverkill, important additions will be required. This is not the place, however, to delve into those occasions when you will need some different pattern anywhere between midge nymphs and the large skittering Coffin Fly (Green Drake Spinner). Local patterns and the hot flies can be obtained from the excellent fly-tyers who live on the stream banks; the famous Elsi and Harry Darbee, and Wini and Walter Dette.

Where are these streams and when should you fish them? The "main" Beaverkill starts at the legendary Junction Pool in Roscoe, New York where the Beaverkill and Willowemoc join. Roscoe is easily reached on New York Route 17, which you pick up at Exit 16, the Harriman exit, on the New York Throughway. From Roscoe the main Beaverkill runs westward, roughly parallel to Route 17, about 15 miles until it enters the East Branch of the Delaware River at the village of East Branch. The public has access to the river for most of its length. The no-kill stretch starts just east of the Sullivan County line and runs about 2¼ miles to the west.

You can track the Willowemoc eastward from Junction Pool along Route 17 to Livingston Manor. From there it turns away from that highway, and runs to the towns of Debruce and Willowemoc. The no-kill stretch, roughly speaking, is between the "power station" readily visible from both the new and old Route 17, to the bridge just downstream of Harry Darbee's house on old Route 17. The exact boundaries of the no-kill stretches on both the Beaverkill and Willowemoc have been changed in the



20" brown trout at the Esopus [above Portal].

past and you should obtain the exact boundaries from the latest Conservation Department regulations which appear in the pamphlet available wherever fishing licenses are sold. Also, numerous, clearly printed posters appear along the no-kill stretches so you will know immediately whether you are fishing the no-kill or some other stretch. Prudence dictates that the regulations be followed, foremost because it's only right, but also because these sections are regularly patrolled by the Conser-

Continued on page 17

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NEW HAVEN HARBOR BLACKFISH

ANY DAY IN MAY

by Don Millus

Anchor right on the rocks.

The mouth of the Quinnipiac River won't bring any prizes for untouched natural beauty. But cruise past the heaps of scrap metal, the rotting buildings advertising seed oysters and lobsters, out under the old bridges, past the oil tanks and tankers, and out to the breakwaters "Lighthouse", "Middle" and "West Haven", and the city's waterfront ugliness is forgotten. Once again the blackfish, or tautog, are there in May, just off New Haven.

I had hoped to get out sooner than May 1st, but the previous date I had set with Frank DeGregorio of Dee's in New Haven had been a washout. A few days later I was admiring the blossoms on the apple trees on what used to be a farm on my block in North Haven, and I recalled the New England farmer's saying about blackfish and apple blossoms. Two hours later I was heading out to the breakwater with "Butch" DeMartino and a few hundred green crabs noisily scratching around in two tin cans.

Butch had fished that last rainy and windswept Friday in April and had gotten a dozen big blacks despite the sloppy weather, but he resolved not to go out alone again - just to avoid the problems of running a boat and anchoring at the same time. He explained that a good part of getting those breakwater blacks depends on anchoring the boat close to the rocks, yet still in the current.

He slowed the motor as we approached the lighthouse end of the east breakwater. An anchor with five feet of chain and a hundred and fifty feet of rope was put in my charge; we dropped it a hundred feet from the rocks and slowly edged in. When he had the boat ten feet away from the breakwater, Butch took another line with a small grappling hook attached and deftly swung it up on to the rocks. Batman couldn't have done any better! The boat held on a line as the current pushed past underneath us. Time to cut the crabs.

Green crabs are the bait in this area right now. Aside from the great wormdigger's strike, the crabs will outfish the worms simply because the "cunners", or bergalls, will get the worms more easily than the crabs will! We split the crabs down the middle with a good strong knife, and eased off the back shell. Butch was rigging on hook, 3/0 or so, some six inches above a three ounce sinker. Our rods weren't too light, either, to get those big-headed blackfish out of the rocks.

There was hardly a ripple on the water as we dropped the baits down through fifteen feet of water. A few "taps" later I raised the rod tip to take the bait away from the bergalls, and almost had the rod taken away from me. The fish pounded along the bottom, trying to get under a rock. After a nice struggle a stubby, gray-black shape splashed alongside the boat and was flipped in. Butch nodded approvingly: A four pound black was a fair start.

As if to emphasize that he was just being polite my companion set the hook on a big fish, and before I had my second one he had four big ones and a one-pounder returned to the water. We had been fishing for twenty minutes and had thirty pounds of fish in the boat. It was a sure sign of spring. The blackfish were hungry.

The crab legs and shells that went over the side seemed to help bring the fish closer to the boat. Later on, when they're more finicky, a sack of crushed mussels would help as chum. I decided to put a whole crab on my hook while I had a cup of coffee, but as soon as I had the rod settled it began throbbing as a fish tried to swim off with a meal. Those blackfish wouldn't leave us alone.

Frank Baldo was fishing by himself, with his boat anchored some twenty feet away from us, but he was just off the edge of the rip where the fish were located. He spent twenty minutes maneuvering his anchor and bow line but it was tough getting the boat right. We invited him to tie on to our stern. He did, and suddenly Frank was into the fish, too.

Two more boats joined us and started feeding the bergalls with worms. Occasionally they picked up a black, but as the tide ebbed to a full stop all the fishing died. Butch noted that the blacks start around the New Haven breakwaters in mid-April and continue to bite well through the month of May. But that's true all over the Sound.

As the tide began to run again the fish regained their appetites. We put a few more blacks in the now-bulging bag, but we had to be back at the dock before six. We loosened the stern line and Butch scrambled up on the rocks after his grappling hook. At the same time a big lobster boat eased in close to the breakwater to do some blackfishing. The two men on board had mackerel jigs on one of their rods and said that the mackerel were out in the Sound past the eighty foot depth mark.

As we headed for home, past the oil tankers and tanks, past the bridges and old buildings, and past the piles of junk, it looked as if we were all having a great spring.

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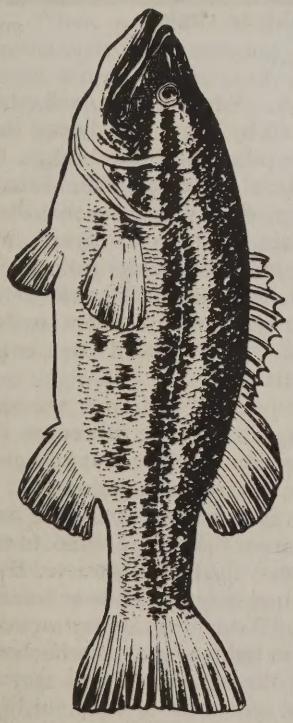

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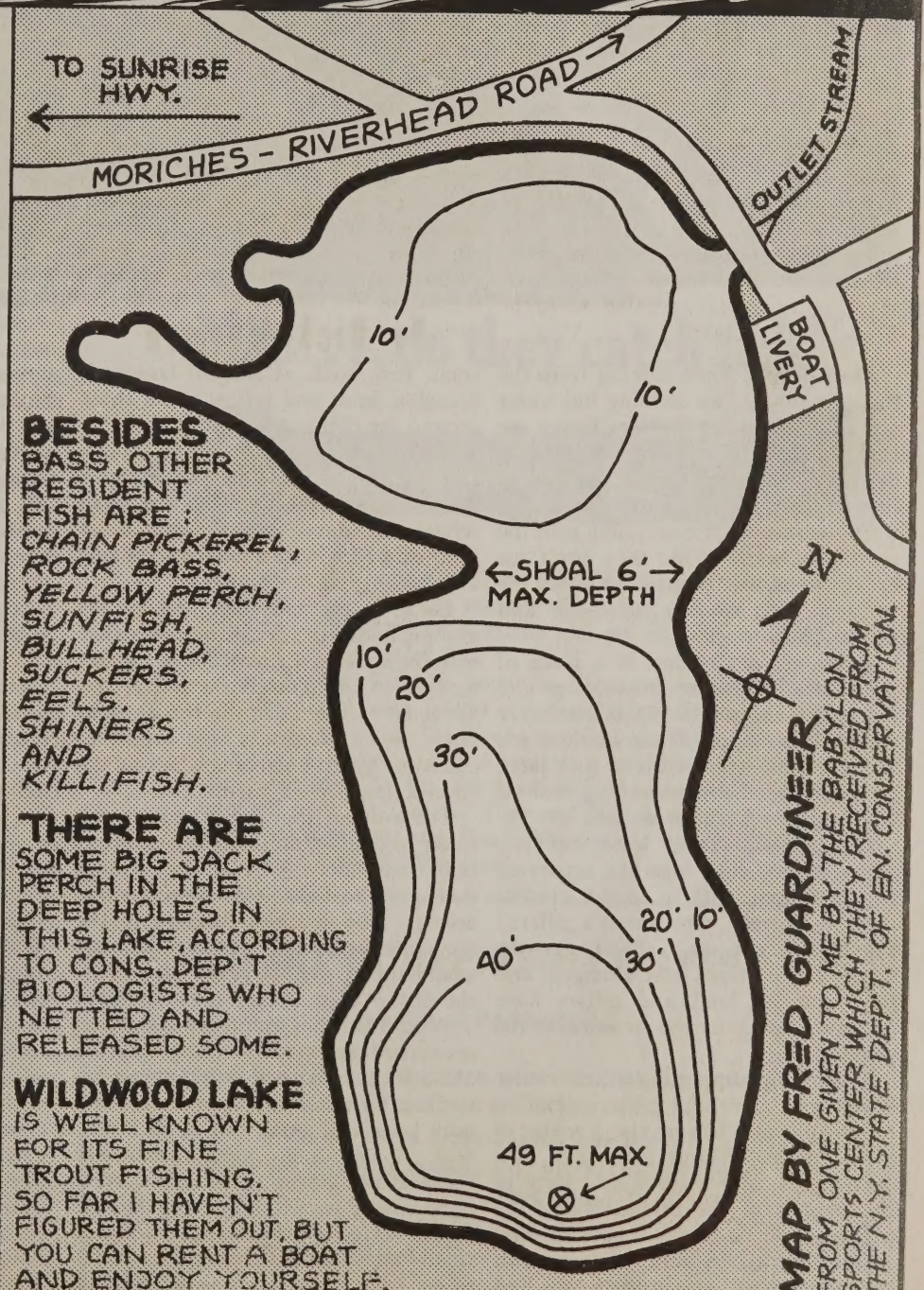

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BASS, OTHER RESIDENT FISH ARE: *CHAIN PICKEREL, ROCK BASS, YELLOW PERCH, SUNFISH, BULLHEAD, SUCKERS, EELS, SHINERS AND KILLIFISH.*

THERE ARE
SOME BIG JACK PERCH IN THE DEEP HOLES IN THIS LAKE, ACCORDING TO CONS. DEP'T BIOLOGISTS WHO NETTED AND RELEASED SOME.

WILDWOOD LAKE
IS WELL KNOWN FOR ITS FINE TROUT FISHING. SO FAR I HAVEN'T FIGURED THEM OUT, BUT YOU CAN RENT A BOAT AND ENJOY YOURSELF.

MAP BY FRED GUARDINEER
FROM ONE GIVEN TO ME BY THE BABYLON SPORTS CENTER WHICH THEY RECEIVED FROM THE N.Y. STATE DEP'T. OF EN. CONSERVATION.

THE WONDERS UNDER A BRIDGE

Garfish [houndfish] sway in the current of a bridge.[Note 4 garfish in circle].

by Dick Mermon

Most people, when looking from the top of a bridge, see nothing but water and sky; sometimes they don't even see that much. When these people look down at the colorful water, so full of life, all they can see is the flotsam of weed, paper and cans traveling with the current beneath. What they don't see are the wondrous happenings under the surface, the miracles of God and Mother Nature.

A bridge, any bridge, is a place of great activity. Many crustaceans and fish gather around the pillars that brace the overhead span. These columns are the protectors of the small and large creatures of the surrounding waters, whether they be fresh or salt.

Once, where there were but two points of land close together, separated by water but with a slight current running between, now stands a pillared span which acts as a shade over the water. The currents have changed, and the points of land and pillars have become a haven for the creatures of the water.

The pilings supporting a fresh water bridge give algae and other vegetation rooting places. They are also a refuge to many species of large and small fish, crustaceans, and amphibians. Here in the shadow of the bridge, along the pilings, will be found crawfish and small larval insects. Frogs and salamanders will attach their eggs and thus attract small fish to them. The small fish, such as sunfish (sunnies), bluegills, brim and yellow perch chase around the pilings after the food that is attached to the cement or wood braces. Darting around these massive uprights and seeking their protection are small schools of dace, shiners and other baitfish, which in turn feed on the living attachments to the pilings.

Early in the morning, and in the evening hours, the bridge becomes alive with the action and confusion of the fish feeding on the morsels the bridge has attracted to itself. During the daylight hours, when the sun is high overhead, this same spot is an area in which all the species can protect themselves.

The wonders that go on under a salt water bridge are far more adventurous than that under the fresh. Very seldom during the daylight hours is there much activity. The southern bridges in the Keys are active during the day, but what happens at dusk as the sun sets on the distant flats is even more exciting.

When the sun is over these bridges an occasional tarpon will come up and roll, and a few bait fish will skitter across the surface. People fishing from them hook both large and small fish of all kinds. Still, if one looks closely and has polaroid sun glasses (which are a must to be able to see with), there to the side of the bridge will be found schools of small fish valiantly fighting the current to get from the ocean side to the Gulf side, and on the reverse tide-just the opposite. Very seldom will they be bothered by larger fish during the day, yet the pillars of these bridges hold a multitude of larger fish. Skindivers, diving at slack water, say that there are all sizes and types lying in the protection of the bridge pilings. Should any of these small fish venture out in the current and be swept under the bridge, they would be engulfed immediately.

The bridges that span the salt are ideally suited for the fishermen. During the day they produce, but at night their productivity is even greater.

At night, when all is still and the lights from the bridge shine down onto the water, the bait is attracted from the shorelines out into the deep areas of the bridge. As moths are attracted to a flame or light, so are the schools of fish. While the schools of bait stay in the lighted area of the bridge, cruising back and forth from side to side with the sway of the current, the large fish hide in the shadow line, just under the surface. This is the shadow that is caused by the lights on the overhead span. When the baitfish venture too close to this dark shadow area, or are carried into it by the swift current, they become temporarily blinded and are caught by the larger fish that are waiting. Striped bass, weakfish, bluefish, garfish, tarpon, snook, snapper and grouper are just a few that work a bridge in this fashion.

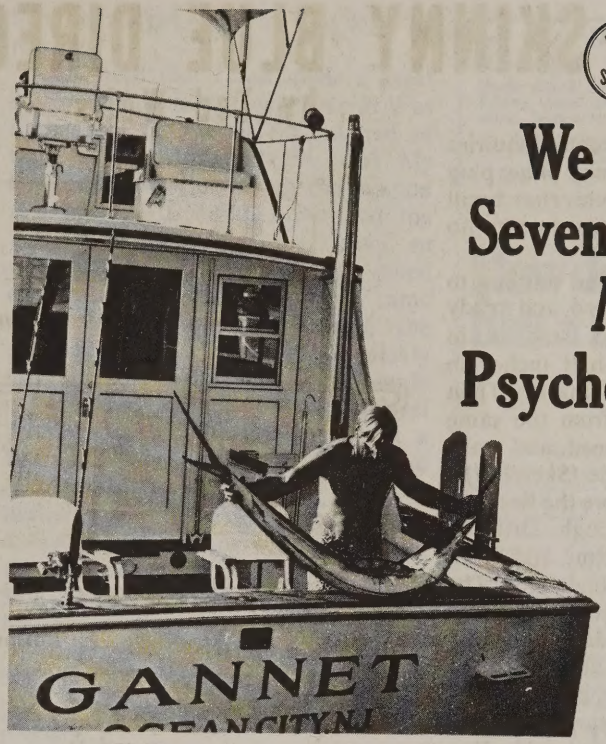
Not only do these bridges afford the protection that all the organisms need, they also create new holes and depths by changing the currents. After a bridge has been built, the currents around the new pilings cut out ridges and holes where food will collect. Where there was once a straight current there is now a backwash or eddy; very productive in collecting food.

During the night hours at low slack water, with the aid of a strong light, one can watch Mother Nature's most humorous fish in the act of preparing to sleep. The blackfish proceed to gather a large piece of seaweed and uses this as a blanket by rolling up in it and then snuggling up against the pilling of the bridge, or even standing on its head. Most of the time the blackfish will find a weed that is already attached to the bridge to roll up in so it will not be noticed.

Another great occurrence in this nocturnal period is that of a striped bass trying to find small sand or calico crabs. When a small crab paddles across the surface and becomes pursued by a bass, it dives for the sandy bottom. The bass in turn will hit the spot with its mouth open, where the crab buried itself, engulf a mouthful of sand and spit it out into the current. As the sand is washed clear by the current, the crab is in the center of the explosion. The bass makes a grab and the crab is engulfed: This all happens in a matter of seconds.

Twice a year in the Florida Keys the shrimp migrate to and from the Gulf, and during this time people from all over come to the bridges at night (and only at night) to capture them. They hang lighted lanterns over the side of the bridge, facing the oncoming current (which is the out-going for best results) just above the water, and with long-handled nets scoop them up as they are swept by the light. These are the same shrimp that are sold in stores for eating, and are also used for bait. Several nights of this netting will fill up many a freezer. At the same time, the big tarpon are also chasing the shrimp. Occasionally a tarpon will try for the same shrimp that a netter is going after and will jump right into the small scoop net. Then all Hell breaks loose until the silversides gets out.

Man's creation of a bridge can upset the balance of nature for a while but in the long run, after things settle down, it concentrates many wondrous occurrences - if you take the time to look for them, and know what you are looking at.



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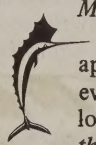

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SKINNY BLUE DIRECTIONS

by Ted Wells

There have been so many inquiries about making the Skinny Blue plug mentioned in prior articles that I will try to show you characters how to do it.

The lathe article showed you how to get the plug-blank turned and ready for rigging. The next step is to measure one and one-half inches in from one end, and mark. Then measure three inches from the same end, which will be the head, and mark three places side by side (Sketch #1). With a 3/16-in. drill, bore the first one more than halfway through. Drill the other three spots the same and clean them out to make a single slot. The elongated hole will be about ¾ inches long by 3/8 inches wide. Then drill both ends of the blank about ¼ of an inch in with the 3/16-in. drill. Change to a 1/8-in. drill and run it in from each end to connect the two. You should have something like Sketch #2.

Cut a 2 inch piece of #16 wire and form a loop that will slip in the 3/16 hole. Cut a piece of the same wire, 8½ inches long, and slip it through the length of the plug - making sure it catches the loop. Bend the ends of the looped wire at a point to give room for a hook. Remove the long wire, complete the bending and clip off any excess. Put the small loop in the hole so the ends will be concealed in the hole. Run the long wire, after doubling back 1¼ inches, through from the head end. Drive the doubled end all the way in. Make an eye in the other end, using about three wraps. Cut off excess, then drive into the 3/16 hole at the tail.

If everything checks, use a punch to drive the wire into the bottom of that elongated hole to make room for lead (Sketch #3). Use a torch to melt some lead, by the drop, into the hole. About 10-12 drops would be enough to make the whole thing (when completed, including hooks) about 1½ ounces. Give the loop for the front hook one-quarter turn to line it up with the front and back loops. The next step is to fill the openings, including both ends, with plastic wood. Round up the hole over the lead as the plastic will shrink somewhat.

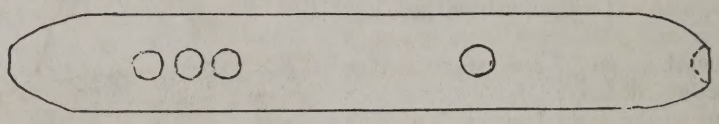
Let it dry overnight, then rasp or cut with a knife. Finally, sand the plug smooth. Put on two or three coats of dark blue oil-based enamel, but let it dry between each coat. Stripe with aluminum enamel paint as shown in Sketch #4. After all is dry, you can add the icing on the cake by attaching a piece of shiny metal, 1½ x ½ inches, in any shape you choose. Bend it to fit the round plug, over the leaded hole, and fasten it with a couple of small, ½-in. brass brads. With the addition of a couple of #1 or #1/0 treble hooks, you are ready to tangle with those bluefish or bass.

If you haven't had time to get a lathe set up, you could make your blanks from 5/8-in. doweling. Cut it in 4½ inch lengths and drill in the center of each end with a 1/8-in. drill, as straight as possible, for an inch or so. Round both ends with a rasp, or grind on a wheel, and sand smooth. Then proceed with the above directions.

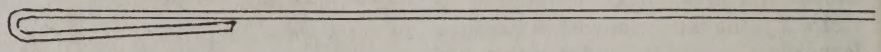
If you should happen to goof in any phase of the operation, plastic wood will come to the rescue.

When you have finished a few plugs and they are ready for use, you may expect the bass to arrive on the south shore about April 20th. However, the stripers are reluctant to hit plugs for about three to four weeks. They usually go for a bucktail jig, such as an Upperman, in the early part of their spring run.

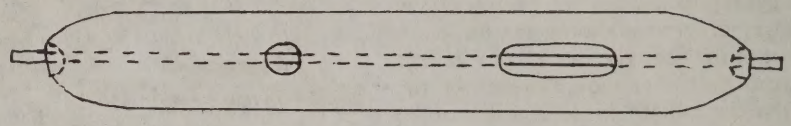
About June 1st, the blues are due on



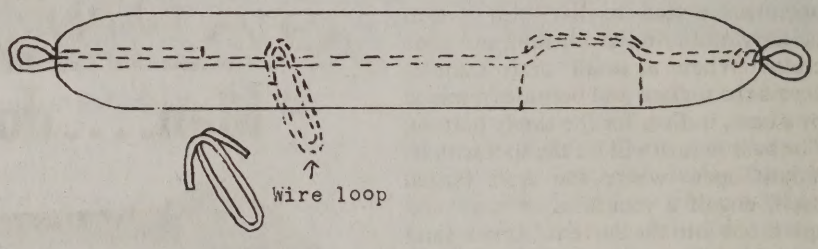
Sketch No. 1 **Bottom view after drilling**



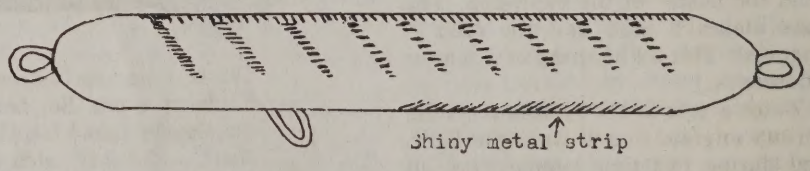
#16 wire - 8½ inches long



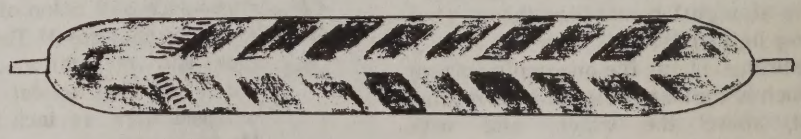
Sketch No. 2 **Bottom view with wire inserted**



Sketch No. 3 **Side view**



Sketch No. 4 **Side view**



Sketch No. 5 **Top view of finished plug**

their spring run. By then you should have several Skinny Blues in your bag, at the ready, as you will find out how easy it is to lose them when those blues are around.

Blues and stripers are not the only fish that will hit this monstrosity. When the bonito move in, as they do sometimes, you might get a big surprise and have one of them smash the plug. When this happens, you get the message right away that it's no bass. That is exactly what happened to me on the jetty one early morning.

I was using the Skinny Blue, hoping for, and expecting bass, when one of those bonito hit. This was only about five and one-half pounds, but the fight he put up made him feel more like twice that size.

Another time, while fishing from the boat, Frank and I located a school of bonito on the surface near Black Point. We boated several of them while we were using the Skinny Blue.

These three species are the most likely ones you may find. If you keep that Skinny Blue plug working in the proper season and in the likely places, you will probably nail one or more of them. Here's hoping you hit all three.

A WEAKFISH STORY

Continued from page 9

grab the gaff. For a couple of guys who had never fished for weaks before, we weren't doing too badly at all. We still lost one or two by not getting the gaff into them. And we each lost a fish because the drag had worked tighter, causing the six-pound test line to snap when it was overstressed. But we managed to beat fourteen of these beauties.

Now we knew why some people call these speckled, irridescent wonders "sea trout". Both names accurately describe this species of fish, but I'd much rather see them called sea trout by everyone.

As we started to hook the sea trout with greater consistency, I made a discovery. There was a subtle difference in the technique I used for retrieving my lure. On some retrieves I was impatient, jigged my rod in short, hurried jerks and reeled in the line without pausing. Lures retrieved in this manner never caused the sea trout to strike. On other retrieves, I jigged more slowly, less frantically. Then, after a series of jigs had resulted in some slack line, I paused for an extra second or two, allowing the lure to sink back down before winding up the slack in preparation for the next series. All the fish we caught were on this type of retrieve.

Convinced that I had made a great discovery, I decided to experiment: Was it the type of lure or the method of retrieval that attracted the fish? My hypothesis was that it was the method of retrieve. To test it, I removed the Salty Dog lure that had been so successful and replaced it with a green and white buck hair, about the same size as the Salty Dog. Using the prefered retrieve technique, I quickly caught a sea trout. I also tried a couple of casts using the herky-jerky retrieval method: No strikes. I then put on a Hopkins which had white bucktail on the treble hook. Three or four herky-jerky retrieves didn't produce any action. Again I made a retrieve using the preferred method. "Bang" I had a fish. I changed lures, using in turn a half-ounce Kast-Master, a Diamond jig, and a black and orange bucktail. Sea trout, I found, would strike at all of these lures if the lure was retrieved properly.

After a while things began to slow down, so Doug and I agreed to leave at 11:30. The last fish had been caught at 11:20. We returned to Asharoken Beach, put the "Honest Lil" back on the trailer, and headed for home. A quick stop at the farm stand provided us with the makings for a delicious meal: onions, green peppers, tomatoes, and potatoes. We made another stop at a bakery for a long loaf of fresh Italian bread. Now we were set for a feast.

At home, Doug scrubbed out the boat while I filleted the fish. Scott stared bug-eyed at our splendid catch. No movie, he announced, was worth missing a trip like this. And do you know, all I have to do now is suggest a fishing trip and he's in bed before I am.

CATSKILL TROUT

Continued from page 11

vation Department.

When to fish? You just can't go wrong from mid-May to early July, but good fishing can be had at other times. Last year, because of all the rain and cool weather, the fishing held up right through July and August. Although the Willowemoc is considered to be better in early spring than the Beaverkill (which really perks up around mid-May), if the water is clear and not too high good fishing can be experienced on the big river from April 1 on. I know of one sensational catch on the Beaverkill, opening day

Continued on next page

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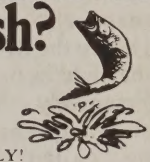

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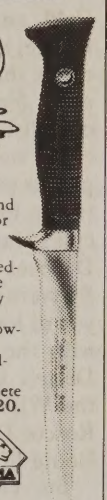

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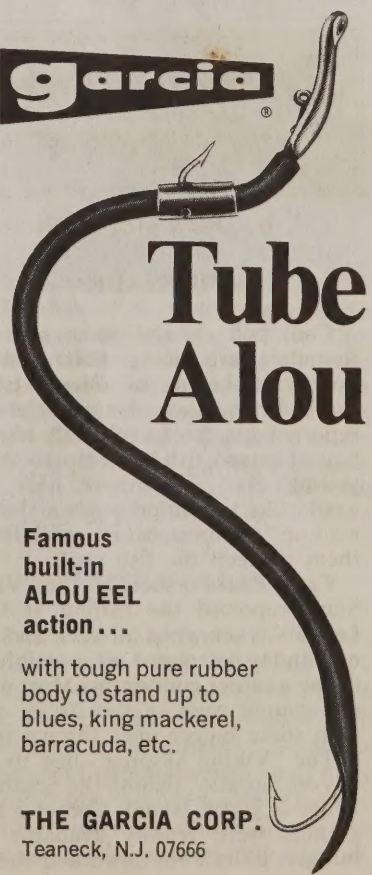

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weekend, on weighted Zug Bugs a couple of years ago. The water, though cold, was low and clear. Remember, however, that water temperature, level and clarity greatly affect the fishing, and conditions can change rapidly. Also, mountain weather is far different from that on Long Island. I've experienced flooding in this region when not a drop of rain fell within 50 miles of New York City. Cold snaps also can interrupt the fly-life, hence the fly-fishing. It pays to check the night or day before your trip and fortunately, Walt Dette has established a telephone number which can be called for a recent, pre-recorded report on stream conditions: (607) 498-5350. Also you can call Harry or Elsi Darbee. The Darbees and the Dettes are great fly-tyers and fishermen who can advise you of local conditions and supply you with the best flies then being taken. Dette's shop can be seen just across the Willowemoc from in front of the Roscoe Diner. The Darbees are on old Route 17, several miles west of Roscoe.

So, check those local conditions, your stock of freshly tied flies, double check those leaders and go catch Mr. BIG. Just don't keep him. I want another chance this year

End of Series

South Shore Report

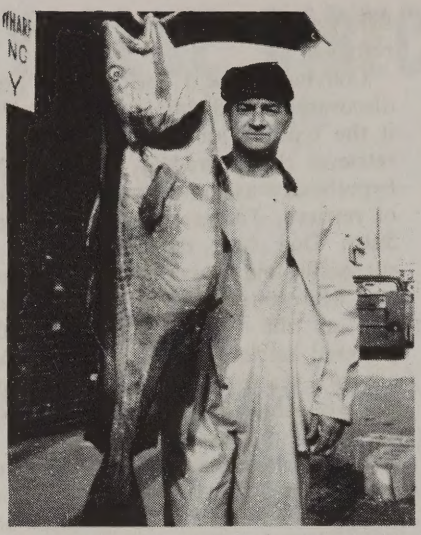
by DICK MERMON

MONTAUK

Cod, pollack and some snowshoe flounders are being taken on the Southeast Ledge of Block Island. Capt. Brad Glas of the "Hel-Cat" reported his fares each had about a bag of mixed fish. Cod up to the 30 pound class are there. He also would like to remind anglers that the walk-in refrigerator is available to them to keep the fish cool.

Capt. Paul Forsberg of the "Viking Star" reported the fishing at Cox's Ledge was very good all week and then on Sunday it dropped off, possibly due to the weather conditions. Most of the cod caught were in the 20 lb. class, with some bigger ones thrown in.

The "Viking Skipper" had its best day on Tuesday, fishing the Southwest Ledge of Block Island. Cod of 3 to 15 pounds were readily available and hungry. Baits went down and the cod



Thomas Marketti of South Ozone Park with a nice cod taken aboard the Peconic Queen III at Cox's Ledge on April 24.

came up; it was that fast. Stan Wojoik of Queens Village had 49. Even the mate joined in on the fishing, since there were only a few fares on board, and he took 42 cod. There is a correction on last week's fishing report that should be noted. Tom Healy actually caught 37 cod and not 73 as reported.

Capt. Whitey Bateman called and said that on Saturday the "Four Queens" sailed and fished the Southwest Ledge of Block Island and had a mixed bag of cod. Sizes ranged from mostly 5 to 7 pounders to fish in the 20 pound class.

PROMISED LAND

Art Brand of Promised Land Fishing Station reported the fishing in general was good and will get better as the weather warms. Blackfish are coming in stronger all the time and range from 3 to 8 lbs. To date the biggest is an 11 lb. 12 oz. black, and that's a nice fish. The mackerel are still around and close to the beach. No weaks have shown as yet. Flounders are still available as shown by Walter Bohnenberger of East Meadow and Joe Oriente of North Bergen, N.J. They had 57 flounder and 25 mackerel.

EAST HAMPTON

"No weaks as yet but the flounders and mackerel are all over," reported Sally Ball of Overton's Boat Station. The weather has a lot to do with the fishing and on Saturday, the anglers that fished Cedar Point did better on the winter flatties than other anglers. Worms are best in the bait department, however, chumming with mussels is definitely needed.

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Luis Rosado, Marty Geist and Allen Breslaw with 100 flounders caught fishing out of Three Mile Harbor Fishing Station on May 1. The fish weighed from 1¼ lb. to 3¼ lb.

SAG HARBOR

Capt. Clark Bellows, Sr. of the "Capt. Clark II," out of Sag Harbor, reported he will return to Shinnecock for the weakfish season now that the flounders are slowing up. "Seems as though everyone wants a crack at the weaks and not the flounders," the Captain said.

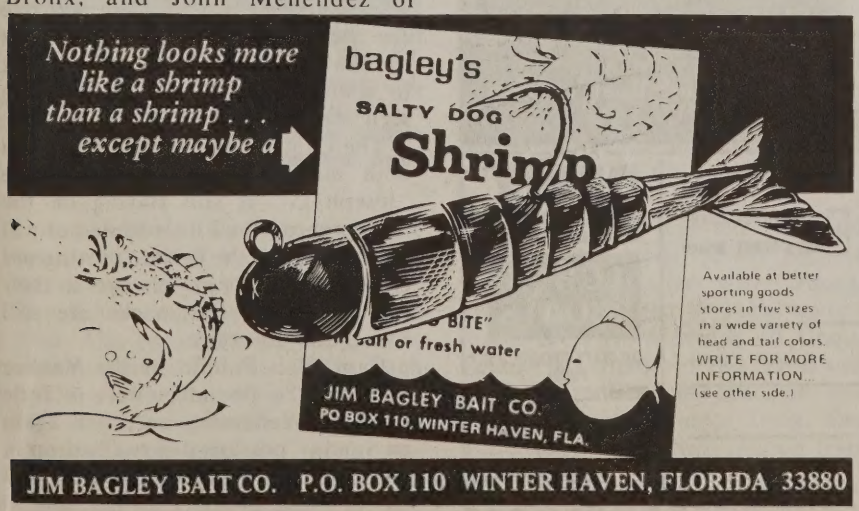
"WEAKFISHING GREAT," was reported by the Noyac Marina. The fish hit all week long, and nice sized ones at that. On Monday, Walter Yackel and Russel Puzack of Maspeth and Tony Salamone of Deer Park teamed up and deposited 23 weaks on the dock. The fish went up to 8½ lbs. These anglers fished near Buoy 16 with squid and Salty Dogs. On Tuesday, Willy and John Womack of Richmond Hill, and John and Stephanie Mauritzen of Ozone Park fished the end of Jessups on the west side and had a mixture of weaks and porgies. One humpback porgy weighed in at 3 lbs. 13 ozs. On Saturday, Steve Janaspach, Frank DeSilva of the Bronx, and John Menendez of Manhattan had 30 weaks, from 4 to 6½ lbs. These anglers also had 15 porgies. TOM WARREN of North Babylon and companion had 40 weaks between them. The weakies went to 6½ lbs. Fred Buback and Bob Williams of Queens worked the area near Buoy 16 with sandworms and collected several nice weaks up to 8½ lbs.

SHINNECOCK

The weakfish have slowed up a bit in the canal but the flounders are still there, reported Altenkirch Tackle Shop. Some small bass are on the beaches. Most of these bass are the throw back size. For every five small ones comes a 3 or 4 pounder.

Capt. Clark Bellows, Jr. sailed the "Capt. Clark I" on Saturday and fished around Robins Island, Cow Neck and Nasau Point. He collected a nice mess of weaks and porgies for his fares. The weaks ran 4 to 6 pounds and the porgies averaged in at around the 2 lb. mark.

The Byrams - Nathan, Curtis, Mary and Essie - of East Patchogue with part of their catch of 23 weakfish from the west side of buoy 17 on Sunday, May 13. The big one weighed 7 lb. 6 oz., and they also caught 10 porgies up to 3 lb. 7 oz.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HAMPTON BAYS

Ernie Berhle of Bradley's Fishing Station said the fishing is really showing signs that the season is going to be a great one. All the species that should be around were caught during the week. Flounders, weaks, porgies and fluke were all caught. Sid and Murray Bernstein, of Brooklyn, brought in 35 weaks up to 6 lbs., plus porgies up to 3½ lbs. Norman Ponge of Queens took eight fluke on Saturday using shiners as bait. The old stand-by, the winter flounder, is still around in numbers and will be for a while.

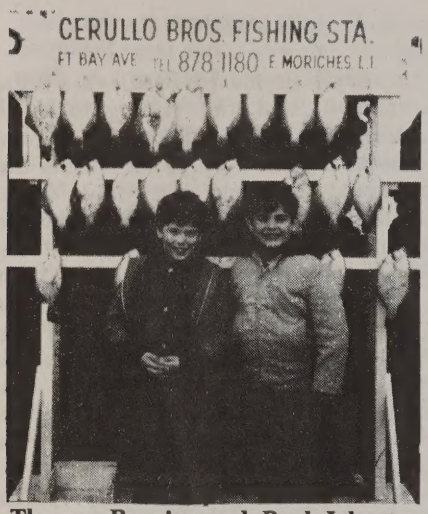
Fishing was good all week, reported Tony's Fishing Station. Fluke are moving in and the bigger flounders are moving out.

Fran Muller of Frank's Fishing Station also reported that the fluke will probably get the big play this weekend, as well as the weaks.

A blackfish - 7 lb. 1 oz., caught at the Moriches Inlet Jetty. N.Y.C. Correction Officers Tony Noviello and Rich Apman split the day between blacks & flounders on May 4th. They caught about 60 nice flounders at the " Brown House" area in Moriches Bay, then 9 blacks from 1 - 3 lbs., with the big one tipping the scales at 7 lb. 1 oz. Fiddler crabs were used.

MORICHES BAY

Nancy of Skidmore's Fishing Station reported Bert Katz and his 8 year old son had 83 flounders up to 1½ lbs. They fished with worms and chummed with mussels. Tony Di Stefano of Centereach took eight fluke up to 3½ lbs. near Buoy 36. The best spot for winter flounder fishing is now between Buoys 38 and 39, however,



Thomas Brunjes and Paul Johnston with some of the 150 flounders caught by the "brown house" this past weekend.

Nancy also said to let you know that you shuldn't anchor in the channel. Not only does this hinder traffic, but the fish are off to the sides of the channel where they wait for the food to come off the flats.

Silly Lily Fishing Station reported fluke fishing is picking up all the time. Fred Ducker of Massapequa had six nice ones right off the flats using squid and spearing.

Tadsen's Fishing Station called to say the weakfish are in pretty strong at Buoy #42 and at the Smith Point Bridge. The fluke are small and Ben reminds us that 14 inches is the legal length.

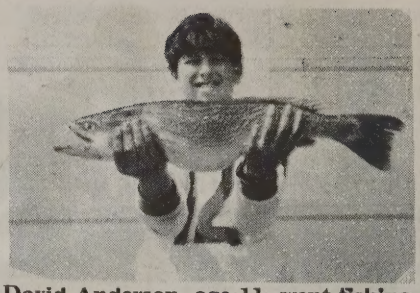
Blackfish are being caught near Buoy 27 and some stripers have been taken near the Smith Point Bridge, reported Shoreline Marina. The bass were in the 4 to 5 pound class and they wre taken on small Johnson Sprite spoons.

MASTIC BEACH

Weakfish are being taken near Buoys 21, 22, 23 and 24 and they range from 3 to 4 pounds, reported Keenan's Fishing Station. Fluke of up to 4 pounds are also in these areas. The best bait is a drifted shiner or a piece of squid. One unknown angler had 12 keepers and threw back another dozen on Thursday.

WEST SAYVILLE

Ron Horn, of Bohemia, went out on Wednesday from South Bay Fishing Station never catching a weakfish. When he returned he had several fish including two that were over 8 lbs. and



David Anderson, age 11, went fishing with his father on Saturday, May 11, and came up with this 6 lb. weakfish. It was caught off Heckscher on a pink Salty-Dog.

one that was just under the 9 lb. mark. He took Dennis Masterson's advice and stood in the area he was told to and came back a winner. Otto and Fred Bezler also took Dennis's advice and they caught 50 weaks up to 6 lbs. The hottest spots are between Buoys 4 and 5 and 28 and 29, but you must stay with the area for a while. Dennis said, "if you give up an area too early and move around a lot, you will never catch weakfish."

CAPTREE

Capt. George Tweedy of the "Capt. Scotty" said weakfishing on Thursday and Friday was good. During his day trips on Saturday and Sunday the fishing slowed. George attributed the poor daytime fishing to the weather and heavy boat traffic. On Sunday evening George had good fishing and landed fish up to 8 lbs. The Capt. Scotty had its best fishing in East End Bay off Heckscher and also Kismet. George looks for a steady improvement in weakfishing.

The "Speedy V" reported that there were some really good catches aboard on Saturday. In fact, there is a possibility of an evening run for weakfish soon, just as there was one for the mackerel. The anglers that have to work all day will be able to get in some of the hottest weakfishing seen around in years in the evening.

The Capt. Joseph Fleet did well on both mackerel and flounders. The "Joseph IV" is still staying on the mackerel run for a little while but will soon change as the fish are moving out of range. Look for any changes in their ad. Meanwhile the macks are still flying over the rails.

Capt. Bob Patafio of the Yankee reported the flounders were a little picky on Wednesday and then again on Sunday, possibly due to the drop in the atmospheric pressure and the full moon. While flounder fishing, several

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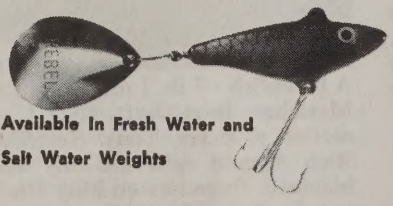

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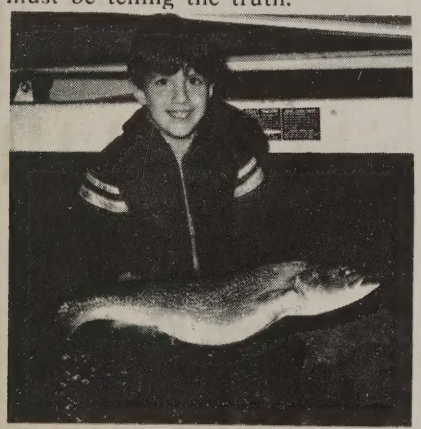
weaks up to 4½ lbs. were taken and also blackfish from 1 to 5 lbs. Several other larger blacks were lost at the boat.

Capt. Ben Litwin reported that fluke are now making the news. You can fish for both fluke and flounders at the same time and possibly catch a weakfish also. Steve Kurpiel of Copiague took a 4 lb. fluke at Middle Ground. Flounders are still holding their own even with the fluke, at 25 to 30 flatties per man. Mixed in with the two species are of course the weaks. One of the hot spots reported is west of the Sore Thumb and South Beach.

The Captree Pier is producing a little of everything, from sea robins to small striped bass. Even the blue claw crabs are making an early showing here.

BABYLON

Joe of the American Sportsman Sporting Goods Shop heard of all the action on weakfishing, so he decided to try it himself. He went out and took 15 weaks up to 7 lbs. off Ocean Beach on rubber shrimp. He said the anglers must be telling the truth.



Anthony Rossi Jr. went fishing with his Father, Saturday evening, May 12, 1973. Anthony, who is 7 years old, caught 7 weakfish from 3 lb. to 4¾ lb. The fish were caught on a yellow Bucktail while drifting between buoy #7 & 8 off Bay Shore.

Augie's Bait & Tackle reported the first blue shark of the season taken by Ray Wittmann on the "Night Owl." Ray fished southwest of Fire Island Inlet. Also reported were the catches of some bluefish of about 8 lbs. each by Gary Schneider on the "Night Owl III" in the same location. Wittmann also had a big bluefish.

Capt. Bruce Abugel of the "Flying Dutchman" said the flounders are still of nice size and the weakfishing is great. On Sunday, in the rain, Bob Bozek of Nesconset had a 10 lb. weak on a rubber shrimp. Even the sea robins enjoyed the rubber meal. They hit the rubber shrimp as hard as the weaks did.

LINDENHURST

John Schaeffer of Charlie's Bait & Tackle said the bay is alive with weakfish. John Sturat, of Lindenhurst, had an 8 lb. 14 oz. weak along with 14 others. Blowfish are starting to show and the blue claw crabs are in. Mackerel have completely moved out of range except for a few scattered, small schools. "The fishing year looks to be a fabulous one," said John. Live killies are available now for the fluke fishermen and green crabs are available at Charlie's West Shop.

Duke's Tackle reported nice sized blacks at the Coast Guard Station at Fire Island on fiddlers. There was a scattering of bluefish at the Fire Island Whistle Buoy last week. The fluke action is definitely on the increase. Mel Fuld of Massapequa had six keeper fluke out of a batch of 19 up to 4¾ lbs. The best news was the weigh in of a fluke of 12 lbs. 9 ozs., caught by Mike Vesik of Lindenhurst. It was taken in the West Channel area on a shrimp tail.

AMITYVILLE

The other day a young lad of some 7 years came into Sportackular and spoke to Marty. He was so proud that Marty had to relay the information to me, even though it was out of our South Shore report. The lad was Bryan Messemer, and he and his dad fished at Robins Island, New Suffolk for weakfish. "The boy's eyes sparkled as he told me that he and his father caught, for the first time, weakfish. They had 15 of them and Bryan took 9 out of the 15," said Marty. "It's something to see this look on a boy's face."

George Combs reported that Tom Gwyder and Audie Soltis, both of Connecticut, fished with George Combs, Sr. and had 38 weaks up to 6 lbs. in the East-West Cut off Unqua Point. They chummed and fished with sand shrimp. Blue claw crabs are now in the area of Copiague Dock. One woman had 66 of them in crab traps using bunker as bait.

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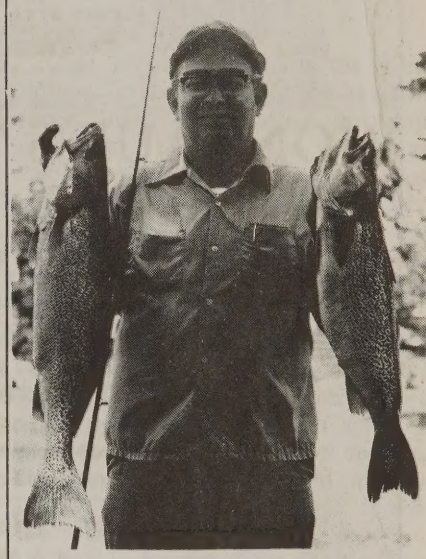
weakfish
WONDER



Writer Vernon Stevens caught this pair of 7 lb. Weakfish or Squeteague (Seatrout) jigging with the 75 with a treble bucktail by Virginia's famed Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. Vern uses the ¾ oz. 75B near full flood or ebb tides and changes to the heavier Shorty 150B (1½ oz.) and then the Shorty 225 B (2¼ oz.) as tidal speed increases. The 75 can also be surf cast for Weakfish and is great too, for:

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SEAFORD

George Babinowitz and his brother, both of No. Seaford, had 24 nice flounders, fishing west of the 2nd Wantagh Bridge on the outgoing tide. They ranged from 1 to 1½ lbs. each, reported Dell's Fishing Station. Also on Sunday, George Wong and a friend, of Manhattan, had 36 flounders, 1 blowfish and a new comer to the season, a kingfish.

Eastern Reel reported Tom DeLutio of Massapequa had 6 weaks on Sunday, up to 5 lbs. State Channel is starting to produce bass on clam belly chum.

WANTAGH

A 6 lb. weakfish was weighed in by Richie Fariello of Bellmore at Causeway Bait & Tackle Shop on Saturday. Frank Hecker also reported large numbers of blue claw crabs near the Wantagh Park area. Weakfish, flounders and even blowfish are there also. The bass fishing is very slow on the beaches, reported Frank.

MERRICK

Nick's Fishing Station reported that the weakfishing is just great in the channel just outside Zach's Bay, east of the mouth. Flounders are still there but a little small. The fluke are in the inlet and a hot spot over the weekend for a combination of blackfish, weakfish and flounders was the northeast side of the Meadowbrook Bridge.

KEEP all you want—
but EAT what you keep!

N.Y. Bight Report

by ART FREY

FREEPORT

Capt. Richie Kessinger of the "Star Stream" reported fishing southeast of Jones Inlet and loading up with mackerel. Despite the excellent catches, the macks are moving fast and only a few more days are left.

Capt. Bill Mieschberger of the "Capt. Jack VI" said flounder fishing continues good. An increasing number of fluke are also being caught.

Capt. Al Lindroth of the "Capt. Al" had substantial catches of mackerel this past weekend fishing three miles southeast of Jones Inlet. In spite of continued excellent mackerel fishing, Capt. Al said it is advisable to call him the night before to find out if the macks are still with us.

Capt. Sy Karlin of the charter boat "Blue Fin" said he loaded up with mackerel on Saturday fishing approximately one hour southeast of Jones Inlet. On Sunday he found excellent flounder fishing in Swift Creek and also the State Channel. Other charter boats such as the "Capt. Marty," "Empire" and the "Gladys B II" also found good flounder fishing in the same areas on Saturday.

Capt. Paul Schmidt of the "Aloma II" said this past weekend yielded some of the largest flounders that he has seen in quite some time. Paul said flounders between 3 and 3½ lbs. were caught. The average flattie went 1¼ to 1½ lbs. Catches of 15 to 18 fish per man was the average. Quite a few fluke and blowfish were taken also. This coming Monday, Memorial Day, the Aloma II will sail all women for half fare.

POINT LOOKOUT

Capt. Art White of the "Angler II" said he found mackerel fishing fair to good on the weekend in the area southeast of Jones Inlet. Capt. White feels the most we have left of the mackerel fishing is 1 or 2 days 'after that they will be well east of here and out of reach. Beginning this Friday and Saturday evening, and continuing until the start of bluefishing, the

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LONG BEACH

Jim Carroll of the Long Beach Sports Marina reports the mackerel schools offshore seem to be somewhat scattered. Capt. John Glaser of the "Skipper" said the mackerel fishing is real tough. Blackfish are being taken in fair numbers at the Atlantic Beach Bridge. One party came in with 15 blacks up to 4 lbs. The flounder fishing is definitely on the wane. If a boat comes in with a dozen flatties on board, he's doing well. A few fluke have been caught over the weekend.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Leon Miller of Henning's Fishing Station reported the big story of the week was a 30 lb. striped bass caught the hard way. Robert Krams, of Lawrence, who never fished before, caught a striper while mackerel fishing south of Buoy 4. Equipped with a spining outfit and 12 lb. test line, and not expecting to catch anything bigger than a 2 lb. mackerel, he was about to lift a mack aboard when suddenly the bass appeared and swallowed the mack. The striper weighed in at exactly 30 lbs. Ken Kelmenson of North Woodmere and Kurt Oppenheim, fishing from the Sea Jet, managed two bass going 14½ and 15 lbs. The fish were taken on red tubes while trolling off the Golf Ball at Sandy Hook. On Saturday, William Hores of Far Rockaway, fishing from the Four Daughters along with Red Blumlein, also caught two stripers going 8 and 10 lbs. These fish were also caught at Sandy Hook on tubes. On Sunday, Bill returned to the same area with Dan Pichney and had a carbon copy of Saturday's fishing, again landing two bass. Fluke fishing in Reynolds Channel has picked up. Martin Rubinstein, fishing with Harry and Steve Glatzer, caught nine fluke. They had their best action off the Atlantic Beach Coast Guard Station and the Cedarhurst Yacht Club.

ISLAND PARK

Capt. Clem Esposito of the "Commodore" reported good fluke fishing. Clem reports his best action was at Buoy 3 and the Duck Point area. The Commodore has been fishing strictly in Reynolds Channel with good success. On Saturday, the Commodore returned with over 70 fluke. On Sunday, with the poor weather, they managed 50. Clem expects the fluke fishing to improve on a daily basis.

Charlie Beckman of Beckman's Tackle also reported a rise in fluke activity. Charlie said any anglers fishing in the Duck Point area of Reynolds Channel can almost certainly be assured of catching at least 6 to 8 fluke. Some fluke fishermen have been using a high hook baited with squid, and they are catching weakfish as a by-product.

Surface Plugs in Jamaica Bay fooled these stripers caught by Tom Haupert, Tom Weeks, Bill Wagner and Larry Carlucci.

JAMAICA BAY

John Brando of the Cross Bay Rod & Gun Shop said striped bass action in the bays has picked up. The bass action is taking place at the Kennedy Piers and the North and South Channel Bridges. John reports that flounder fishing has slowed. Eel fishing is described by one word, "terrific."

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

George Gnad of the Bay End Dock reports blackfishing is excellent at the Tin Can Grounds and also the local wrecks. A few fluke were also caught this week at Plum Beach. Bass fishing is good anywhere from the Round House to the Marine Bridge. Worms and bucktails have produced the bass. Flounders can still be caught but this fishing has slowed.

Mike of Mike's Tackle reports three fishermen, Bob Winters, John Hanamann and Howard Sackstein (the latter being Capt. Hecky of the former party boat Sea Pigeon), fished the area of Debs Inlet and caught 30 fluke up to 4 lbs. Mike also knew of blackfish at the jetty and local wrecks. Striped bass fishing is improving, however, many of these fish are shorts.

Neil Lauro of Stella Maris Fishing Station reports many bass being taken in the area of the Round House on sandworms. Many of these bass are shorts. Neil weighed in a striper of 38 lbs. on Friday. It was caught off Sandy Hook and fell for a red tube. On Saturday, Eddie Lucas landed five bass up to 21 lbs., also fishing red tubes in the Sandy Hook area.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny Killoran of Santo's Sport Shop said bass fishing in the Great Kills Park area has picked up. On Saturday, Jerry Vascaro landed a fish of 16 lbs. fishing the surf, using worms. John Biondi, also fishing the surf at Great Kills, managed two bass going 10 and 21 lbs. even. Lenny reports good blackfishing at the Great Kills Jetty with fish going to 3 lbs. On Wednesday, surf fishermen working Great Kills Park landed eight bluefish, approximately 4 lbs. each. A few more blues were again caught on Friday. Blue claw crabs are also beginning to appear in greater numbers.

SANDY HOOK

Joe Julian of the Atlantic Highlands had exciting news of big bass. On Sunday, Jim O'Donnell of Hazlett, N.J., fishing with Leo Dacey of Brielle aboard the "Erin" landed three big

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ones. Jim had a fish of 44¼ lbs., while Leo's went 36 and 24¾ lbs. The bass fell for fresh bunkers. On Saturday, Mitch Paris of Keensburg landed one going 10¾ lbs., fishing off the Highlands Bridge with tubes. Bill Hall of Middletown managed a bass of 19¾ lbs. while bunker dunking off Monmouth Beach. The way it looks from here, the run on big migratory bass is upon us.

NEW JERSEY

PETE BARRETT

SANDY HOOK

Julian's happily reported the appearance of jumbo stripers off Sandy Hook during last week. Jim O'Donnell had a nice 44¼ lber and Leo Dacey had two weighing 24¾ and 36 lbs. Steve Rella trolled the famous bunker spoon nailing a 36 lber. Flounder fishing is tapering off although some catches were reported.

SEABRIGHT

The surf and jetty men are having a ball with bass up to 46 lbs on herring and sandworms. As Artie at Giglio's put it, "The fish are in." George Broz had the big 46 lb. striper while others like Dick Sohan took bass to 37 lbs. Two good spots are across from the Ancorage and the Ship Ahoy. Early morning and dusk are best for the herring with sands working best during the day. Fluke are coming to net as well as blackfish and kings.

LONG BRANCH

Bart reported excellent catches of fluke and mackeral all through last week on squid while night timers are still doing well on ling and whiting. He suggests the high water as productive and the moving tides to bring in the bait.

ISLAND BEACH

Stripers from the State Park are getting larger as seen by looking over the weigh in chart at Judy & Bill's Tackle Shop. Bill Hadzimichalis took the largest with his bass tipping the scales at 33 lbs. Other bass from 13 to 28 lbs. were also caught. Weaks and flounder are in the surf too, and even a bluefish caught by Guido Lucarille of 7½ lbs.

KEEP OUR WATERS CLEAN!

CONNECTICUT SCENE

DICK ALLEY

NORWALK

Put a fishing rod in the hands of a youngster, and whether he's trying to outwit a trout, perch, or bullhead, striper, bluefish, or flounder, chances are, he won't have much of a chance to tune onto the many other temptations and tribulations crossing the paths of our children these days. It's a theory I've long endorsed, so nothing makes me happier than watching events such as last weekends' Norwalk Striped Bass Club Jr. Flounder Derby. Again, it was held at Calf Pasture Pier. 203 entries, all youngsters between 9 and 12 years of age lined the pier and caught flounder. While the fish weren't exceptionally cooperative, the soda, supplied by the Norwalk Park Commission, along with freed dropline outfits, and prizes donated by the Norwalk Striped Bass Club, made for a fun-filled morning. Winners were as follows:

Most fish were taken by 12 year old John Harris. The biggest, stretching the tape to 13¾ inches, went to 9 year old Robert Dillon. Hillary Ermor, age 10, came in second with a flattie measuring 12-1/8 inches long, and 3rd place went to Tim Allington, age 11, for his 11-3/8 inch flounder. Tied for fourth place, were a pair of 12 year olds, Joy Galyinn and Phil Bardos, each with an 11 inch flounder. Prizes ranged from spinning outfits to boat rod rigs, and everybody went home happy, despite the weather.

Mr. Nathan Lonstein with part of his catch of over 125 flounder caught around Sprite and Cockenoe Islands. The catch was made on Tesday, May 8th. Mr. Lonstein and his brother, Harold, fished only 6 hours. The fish ran in size up to two and one half pounds

Norwalk Dealers, Mola Bros., the Tackle Box, and Four Winds B & T, all report the big action going to the mackerel fishermen, with waters just outside the Norwalk Islands packed solid with the Bostons.

Gloria Borges of the TAckle Box, tells of fantastic black fishing from the Pier at Calf Pasture. They moved in close late in the week. Vin Mola of Mola Bros., reported how Rick Mola and Paul Restucci have been continuing their bass run. Rick came in with an 18 pounder during the week, while Paul took a 14 pound bass.

WESTCHESTER

Mackerel are thick around Buoy 42 with drifting boats cleaning up by the bushel, says Fred Archer at Mamaroneck Fishing Station. A couple of anglers have hooked and lost big bass while jigging up mackerel. Blackfish are averaging 3 lb., adds Fred, with plenty for everybody.

We spoke to Freddie at Camerons, who reported the first bass going to trollers in that area. Mackerel have been taken right under the Glen Island Bridge, which is almost like catching them from shore. Everybody continues to get their share of blacks and flounder.

At Point Tackle in Rye, Dan Catalano continues to load up on bass right in Milton Harbor. A 32 pounder succumbed to a Goo-Goo Eyes late in the week, but most action for the smaller fish is going to Rebels. Rick Ferris scored with a 14 pound striper, and Len Covino took his 25 pounder fishing cut bait. While blackfish just seem to get better by the day, flounder are starting to taper off a little.

GREENWICH

Russ Van Wynen at the Sportsmans Den here tells us of plenty of mackerel - of mackerel inside of Captains Island, between Captains' and the Point, and Capts., and the Cove. Catches of from 70 to 100 fish are common. School bass are plentiful, and there's no lack of flounder, though they are running a bit smaller on the average. Blacks are averaging 2 to 3 pounds.

STAMFORD

Chris at Pat's Marina forwards the information that mackerel are coming

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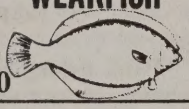

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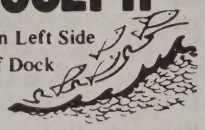

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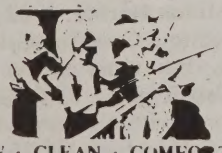

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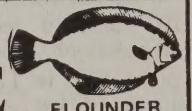

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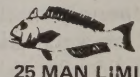

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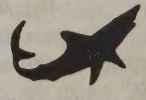

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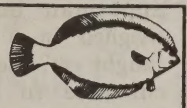

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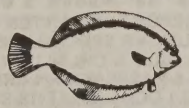

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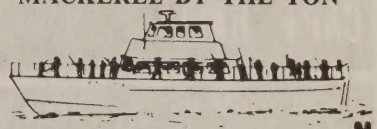

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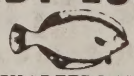

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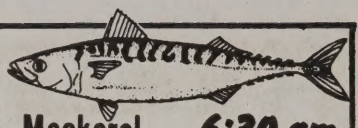
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in in record numbers, with their rentals all going home happy..Bass reports are beginning to come in here, along with another fabulous year with the blackfish. It could be the best one yet.

At Jacks B & T, a catch of 40 flounder, the largest weighing 2 lb. 9 oz., was recorded by Mr. Cramer. In the bass department, a fisherman by the name of Mr. Perun weighed in a 9 lb. striper. Several small schoolies in the cove.

ROWAYTON

Bert Van Sciver at the Bait Shop went out with Toot Zimmerli, and they collected 40 mackerel in less than an hours casting hopkins lures with spinning rods. The fish were about a mile outside Greens Ledge light. Guy Wetmore has been picking up school bass in the inner Norwalk Islands outside Manresa Power plant, and several bass have been taken from the Stamford breakwater.

WESTPORT

Plenty of bass fishing in Westport waters, says Ed Boland at the Westport Tackle Shop. John Kujan of Fairfield rated top area fish of the week, with a 31 lb. specimen, taken on an Alewive in the Norwalk Islands. Win Cyrus & son John, have been doing well on schoolies at Walkers Pt. in Fairfield, and Bedfords Pt. along with Compo Beach have also been paying off in the evening hours. Gordon Rogers took 4 bass on worms. Bill Danaher traveled up from New Jersey to fish his old favorite gorunds at Bedfords and took 6 stripers. Southport harbor has opened up for the Alewive fishermen, who scored with several teen-size bass during the week. Best blackfish run ever at Compo Beach's Cannons, with fish averaging 5 to 7 lb.. In the fresh water department, Bob Lambdin took a 3 lb. pickerel from the lower Saugatuck River by the Hydraulic Co., and Topper Forest topped the trout picture with a 16½ inch Rainbow.

BRIDGEPORT

At Bob's Bait, a 10 pound striper was weighed in by Ted Kelemen on an upperman bucktail. Louis Pace weighed in a 10 pound blackfish caught at the breakwater at the entrance to Bridgeport Harbor. Mackerel are both close and far in Bridgeport waters.

Steve at the Sportsmans Den in Bridgeport had a confirmed weakfish report, and they were right in Bridgeport waters near the Remington Shaver Co. Charley Cooper is doing his usual excellent job on blackfish with several to eight and ten pounds in the Charles Island area.

STRATFORD

Mrs. Fordham at Housatonic Marina provided here usual excellent report from that area. James Baker of Seymour Conn. took a bushel right from the Housatonic River. William Baxter of Bridgeport, scored with 6 blacks by the river breakwater, and 24 flats by Russian Beach. Don Budde of Trumbull recorded 79 mackered fishing near Penfield Reef. Richard Thompson, of Stratford, tallied 50 flats and picked up 2 stripers fishing waters around the Gun Club. Raymond Sikorski, took 40 flounder, while Ray Edwards of Wappinger Falls, N.Y. creeled 1 black and 40 flats fishing near the Stratford light..J.P. Ragland of Brooklyn NY took 10 blacks near the Stratford breakwater, while ARnold Marinelli matched this score in the same area. Arnold Roland

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of Stratford took several blacks and 30 flats at the breakwater. Arnold Lison traveled out from the Bronx, N.Y. for a mixed bag of blacks and flats in the same waters.

BRIDGEPORT

Joe Saia hit again with a one-day catch of 275 mackerel off Penfield. Al Lockwood and Joe Tackacs found the flounder between Penfield and Sunken Island, and tallied 75 in an afternoon. Larry Merly has been limiting out in the Saugatuck River on a daily basis with trout. Flys are his game.

MILFORD

Expanded coverage from Conn. Scene will include reports from the Sportsmans Rendezvous in Milford. Vinny Ciulla tells us the bass are going wild in Morningside and Woodmont, with many fish in the eight to twenty pound range. Lots of flounder are available between 1 and 2 lb., and Vinny and his wife Barbara, sampled the blackfishing, and racked up 30, the largest going 11½ lb..Naturally, that was Barbara's fish. The Bridgeport Reservoir produced a 32 inch pickerel, but a reminder that only anglers serviced by the Bridgeport Hydraulic Co., are allowed daily permits.

NEW HAVEN

Walt Janeczek at Outdoor Sports puts the mackerel at the Branford Beacon and Faulkner's Island at this writing. Blackfish are being taken at Charles Island breakwater and the Oyster Stakes, with plenty of bonus flounder at the stakes. The Conn. River is hot for everything from carp. to catfish, with a good catch of stripers also available. Which reminds us, a pat on the back is in order for Conservation officers from the State DEP, for several short bass arrests on West Haven sandbar. It's too bad the State has to have a complaint before they'll provide salt water enforcement.

WATERFORD

Hillyer's B & T reports the striped bass run on in force. Tremendous schools of bass, averaging 18 to 20 inches and providing several fish to 15 lb.., have moved in, and they'll hit almost anything tossed their way. They're feeding just before high tide. Walt Hillyer says the Race is ready to pop for bass any day now. A few weaks are being taken in Rhode Island.

Steve Basil has been hitting the mackerel in the Capt. Bob, and weakfish are being taken at Greenport. He expects another good weekend.

MYSTIC

Shaffers boat livery in Mystic reports flounder running up to 2 pounds and better. Blacks are commencing to improve daily. Millions of mackerel inside Fischers Island Sound, with stripers due to move in in force any day now.

NOANK

We spoke to Capt. Newbury at Spicers, who reported flatfishing fair, blacks great, and the mackerel outside Fishers Island just fantastic. Bass are beginning to move in the Mystic River. Besides managing Spicers, Capt. Newbury has his own Charter Boat, the Yankee Girl. He found a few big weaks early in the week between Greenport and Little Peconic.

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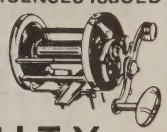

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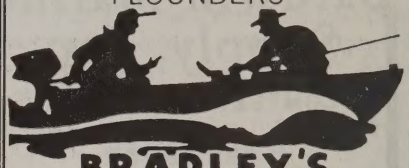

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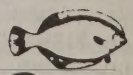

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NEW LONDON

Marsters Dock, reports the many charters leaving there, well pleased with this years run of fish so far. Mackerel and Cod have been sharing the spotlight. Joe Wilk, skipper of the Dixie Belle, came in with a catch of 600 mackerel over the weekend. Cod are averaging 3 to 10 lb., and coming in in good numbers.

Conn. Scene plans to cover fishing from Westchester to New London throughout the entire season offering a more complete fishing picture.

BOATS

Skipper John Minnitti has been sailing his Delmar out of Greenwich to great mackerel fishing all week long. A few bonus porgies have started coming over the side, and with the fantastic blackfishing already available, it spells good fishing.

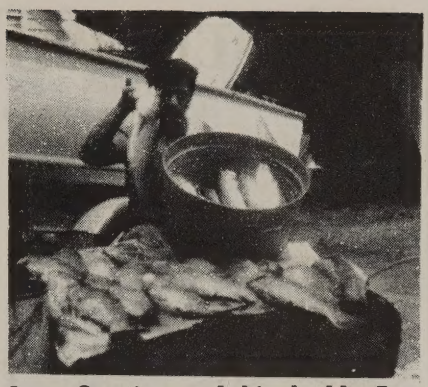
A similiar report comes from Mrs. Ed Brower, whose hubby Ed, skippers the Dolphin out of Bridgeport. Flounder are continuing to hold strong, and those first porgies of the year showed some going to two pounds.

North Shore Reports

GREENPORT

Art White of the A.P. White Bait Shop reports all the boats did well on Saturday on the welcomed weakfish population. Squid and sandworms, of course. Plenty of macks are still in the area. The weaks run up to 8 lbs. Very good blackfishing is available and they are being taken on clams and worms. Fiddlers are coming. Bring your own green crabs if you can because they're hard to get. A few humpback porgies have been taken in the bay.

Capt. George Porter of the "Brand X" tells us that Saturday saw 109 weaks and a couple of dozen porgies being boated. The weaks were up to 7½ lbs. On Sunday, 45 weaks and a dozen porgies came over the rail. The areas fished were Little Peconic, Middle Ground. Squid strips and plastic shrimps did the trick. He also points out that small boaters should remember that their engine noises spook the weaks, and to cut their



Jerry Scortino and his buddy Lou Bonanno had 18 stripers to 7½ lbs. and 40 blackfish from 3 - 8 lbs. fishing along the Noth Shore.

motors and drift through the suspected haunts.

Mrs. Dorothy Williams of the Co-op City Anglers, on May 14, 1973, got a 4½ lb. porgie on a Greenport boat on a rubber shrimp/squid combo. Mrs. Williams had no idea of the name of the boat or area fished, but she sure knew the weight of that fish!

On May 17, 10 fares aboard the Wilhelric boated 74 weakfish, reported Mrs. Jensen, wife of Capt. Jensen. Come & get 'em!

Dave Green skipper of the Pooka 11 reports fishing was fair on Saturday but real tough on Sunday. For some reason the weakfish just didn't want to co-operate. Capt. Green fished from Ribins Island to Southold Bay with the same result. He considered the catches fair at best. Capt. Green atributed the off fishing to the weather conditions.

SOUTHOLD

Peter Lieblin of the Port of Egypt fishing station called in to report an excellent weekend, both business wise and fishing wise. 135 boats were rented, which is the best day port of Egypt has had since 1953 and the best part is all came back with good catches of fish. The best spots were at Bouy 17 and off the "windmill". These spots produced mostly weaks. At Bouy 18 there were excellent catches of porgies and weakfish mixed.

A Mrs. Tomlin fished with her brother Fred Pringle. They caught 22 porgies, all Hump backs one of which was 4 lb. 1 oz. - (not far off a record) and 37 weakfish up to 5½ lbs. Many of the weaks were 4 lbs. and better.

Southold Fishing Station reports loads & heaps & piles of big weakfish all through the weekend. Squid, sandworms & rubber shrimp did the job. Porgies are increasing in number, sizes ranging 1 - 2 lb. average, a few biting 3 lbs. Macks & flounder are pretty much gone now.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt. Martys reports a rise in the number of weakfish being caught.

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SEAFORD HARBOR

The L.I. Fisherman
... all the news of
fish in print.

Janes Corolan and Fred Sigosky of Jamaica caught 127 weaks south of Bouy 30, the largest went 8 lbs 5 ozs. Paul Strictland of Greenport fishing along with Pete Lieata and Joe Prieiatil of Queens caught 96 weakfish up to 8 lbs. Salty Dogs and Bucktails did the trick.

J. Escabar while fishing at Roses Grove on Sunday managed 60 porgies with the largest going 3¼ lbs. However, the average was 1¼ pounds . Worms were the bait.

MT. SINAI HARBOR

Ralph's Fishing Station reported most fishermen still on the mackerel kick and many have catches being brought in. Blacks are showing at Miller Place with fresh skimmer clams & Fiddler crabs providing the fastest action. 2 hours before high to 2 hours into the outgoing are the best times. Flounders continue in the bay.

PORT JEFFERSON

Dick's Sporting Goods reported a 31 lb. striper for last week although most surf catches average 8 - 12 lbs. Miller Place was good for mackerel, blacks and flounder. Best bottom fishing is with sandworms. King fish are just starting to show and bigger weak fish are now in the sound. Mackerel too are in on the beaches. Capt. John Fischer had the Co-op City Anglers out on Saturday for mackerel, flounder & blackfish. Lou Wood won the pool with a 4 lb. black. The Dry Harbor Anglers had macks, blackfish, porgies and weak fish fishing from Old Field to Rocky Point. One 4 lb. weak was caught while mackerel jigging. Pool winner was John Hanbergen's 9 lb. black.

Capt. Joe Cash of the Port Jefferson Ace said massive mackerel schools are in the area of Bouy 11 to Rocky Point. Capt. Joe said all his fares loaded up with mackerel on the weekend.

Al Drescher with Debbie and Dave Boehm caught this 44 lb. bass at West Meadow Beach on a dog chain. Photo by Caraftis.

Flounder and black fishing has been fair from Shoreham to Wading River. The Port Jefferson Ace will be sailing open boat on a daily basis.

The Jib III did well on Saturday and were surprised by large numbers of flounder up to 2 lbs. Black fishing was also good and mackerel were available by the acre. Sunday's fishing was concentrated on the macks at Buoy 11 of Rocky Point.

NORTHPORT

"The fishing is generally good", reports the Chain Locker. Flounder are still around, mackerel fishing is great and both weak fishing & stripers are on the upswing. They recommend Sand City & Crab Meadows with Bucktails and Salty Dogs. Red tubes for mackerel seem to produce the best.

COLD SPRING HARBOR

Veterans Fishing Station reported fishing was as good as last week with lots of flounder, mackerel, stripers and weakfish being caught. Macks are best at the harbor mouth, blacks at the outer harbor and bass and weaks at the harbor entrance on sandworms, squid and bucktails.

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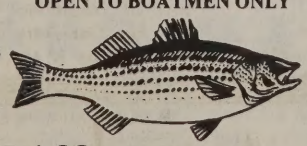

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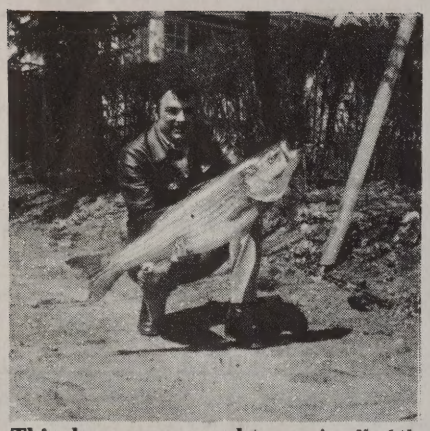

This bass was caught on April 6th 1973 in Hempstead Harbor and weighed in at Ed Lemp's Tackle shop in Glen Cove. The weight was twenty five and three quarter pounds [25 ¾] and measured 37inches.

John Caccioa of the Glen Cove sport shop called in to report weakfish, blackfish, mackerel and striped bass. Both Prybil Beach and Matinicock point were hot spots over the weekend. At Prybil Beach, Johnny Martin landed 31 mackerel from the beach on a Kast-Master. One of the surf casters landed a 7 lb. weakfish. Arthur McKinzie while fishing for mackerel with a small hopkins caught a 2½ lb. black fish.

Dan Michienzi caught 3 bass at Morgans Island. One weighed 3 lbs. 9 oz.

The rocks behind the Creek Fishing Club is producing lots of black fish. The Power House in Hempstead Harbor is producing a good number of bass. Rebels or bucktails are working best at the Power House.

Ronnie Oldenburg landed a 22 lb. striper at Matinicock Point. The big bass took a Gibbs popping plug. A surf caster right along side Ronnie took a bass well up into the 30's (you big bass hounds listening?) Skin plugs should do a job on them at Matincock.

CITY ISLAND

John's Gun & Tackle reported good black fishing along the rocks and at the pier at the end of City Island. Macks too have shown. Stripers are hitting on the moving tide at Turtle Cove with split tail Revels and Bucktails working most effectively. Early morning and evening helps, too.

You can't *EAT* what you can't *CATCH!*

HUDSON RIVER

PETE BARRETT

KINGSTON

Trout action is getting better at the Reservoirs and crappie fishing is tops reports Roy's Bait & Tackle. Crappie fishing at the Rifton Dam is good while trout from the Downesville Res. are averaging 3 – 5 lbs. A nice fat 7 lber was taken from the Ashokan Res. at the wall.

WAPPINGERS FALLS

Bluegill and crappie fanciers are doing well at Wappingers Lake according to the B & M Bait Shop. Carp up to 35 lbs. are hitting worms and dough balls fished on the bottom.

Joe's Bait & Tackle reported some good catches entered in the Newburg Chamber of Commerce Tournament with a 25 lb. striper leading the way although a huge 41 lber was confirmed but not entered in time. The bass are following the herring and the schools are moving from day to day. Rainbows to 17" are hitting at Silvan Lake on nightwalkers and the fishkill, Wappingers and Sprout Creeks are also producing fine catches.

VERPLANCK

Stripers are slacking off at the Oyster Beds because of the masses of white perch steaking baits. Roa Hook is giving up some bass and Juney Gibbs reported 12 stripers to Ace & Charlie's. Oscawanna is still good and many big bass in the 20 to 30 lb. class have been seen but not hooked.

CROTON POINT

The railroad yards at Harmon, the railroad bridge and Tellers Point have been good for stripers using swimming plugs and bucktails.

OSSINING

Big Mike Merolla and Gene Garafano did it again last week during another Hudson Blitz taking stripers up to 10½ lbs and plugs and bucktails right off Crawbuckie Beach in Croton Bay. Shorecasters at Scarborough have had stripers but the best bet would be Bishop's Rocks according to Tony's Bait & Tackle.

FORT LEE

Strips of herring are the bait for catfish at Alpine in the Interstate Park and the Outdoorsmen Ltd. reports catches of cats weighing to 4 lbs. for those fishing at dusk. Some stripers continue to be caught on worms but the best fishing is for perch, tommy cod, eels

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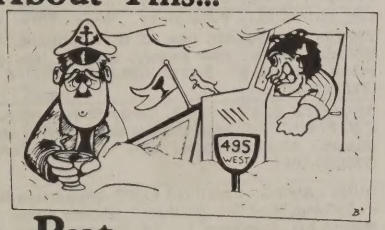

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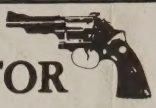

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TIDE TABLES

SOUTH SHORE Long Island

SANDY HOOK STATION

DAY	AM	PM
Thurs.		1:37
Fri.	1:47	2:28
Sat.	2:46	3:26
Sun.	3:49	4:26
Mon.	4:52	5:24
Tues.	5:53	6:21
Wed.	6:51	7:12
Thurs.	7:42	8:02

on SANDY HOOK

SHINNECOCK INLET	−0	50
Shinnecock Bay	+1	25
East Quogue	+2	45
Shinnecock Canal	+1	18
Indian Reservation	+3	05
MORICHES INLET	−0	56
Smith's Point	+3	28
Harts Cove	+1	30
Potunk Point	+3	35
Mastic Beach	+3	28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0	38
(Inlet, Breakwater & Dem. Pt.)	−0	38
Coast Guard Station	−0	19
Fire Island Light	+0	47
GREAT SOUTH BAY		
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3	39
Heckscher State Park	+3	20
Bay Shore	+2	23
Babylon	+2	12
Amityville	+2	21
JONES INLET	+0	19
Loop Parkway Bridge	+0	25
Zachs Bay	+1	25
Seaford Harbor	+2	05
Freeport Creek	+0	34
EAST ROCKAWAY INLET	−0	06
Long Beach Bridge	+0	19
ROCKAWAY INLET	+0	00
Beach Channel (Bridge)	+0	38
JFK Airport	+0	26
STATEN ISLAND	+0	27
MANASQUAN	−0	12

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5/2	5/9	5/17	5/25
NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.

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Block Island SOUND

EASTERN LONG ISLAND
NEW LONDON STATION

DAY	AM	PM
Thurs.	2:46	3:36
Fri.	3:41	4:31
Sat.	4:39	5:19
Sun.	5:35	6:07
Mon.	6:33	6:54
Tues.	7:24	7:44
Wed.	8:18	8:33
Thurs.	9:09	9:22

on NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0	27
Connecticut River	+1	10
Little Gull Island (Race)	+0	12
Greenport	+1	04
Southold	+1	43
New Suffolk	+2	26
South Jamesport	+2	32
Shinnecock Canal	+2	33
Noyack Bay	+2	05
Sag Harbor	+0	59
Gardiners Bay	+0	21
Promised Land (Napeague)	−0	14
Fort Pond Bay	−0	29
Montauk Inlet	−0	25
Montauk Point	−1	13

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good territory, hunting good cover during these times if you wish to find the best sport that each has to offer. The tables are not a guarantee that you will catch fish or see game during the period, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour and a half or two hours thereafter, and are in black face type. The minor periods are somewhat shorter in duration.

	A.M		P.M.	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.				
Fri.				
Sat.				
Sun.				
Mon.				
Tues.				
Wed.				
Thurs.				

WESTERN Long Island Sound

Long Island Sound
WILLETS POINT STATION

DAY	AM	PM
Thurs.	4:18	4:52
Fri.	5:10	5:45
Sat.	6:09	6:42
Sun.	7:06	7:38
Mon.	8:09	8:37
Tues.	9:09	9:30
Wed.	10:00	10:25
Thurs.	11:07	11:21

on WILLETS POINT

Little Neck Bay	−0	10
Execution Light	−0	06
Manhasset Bay	−0	01
Hempstead Harbor	−0	11
City Island	−0	03
Rye Beach	−0	28

Long Island SOUND

Long Island Sound
BRIDGEPORT STATION

DAY	AM	PM
Thurs.	4:49	5:23
Fri.	5:44	6:16
Sat.	6:42	7:09
Sun.	7:35	8:03
Mon.	8:31	8:54
Tues.	9:27	9:43
Wed.	10:18	10:34
Thurs.	11:12	11:27

on BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0	08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0	08
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Eatons Neck Point	+0	03
Northport Bay		
Norwalk Islands	+0	10
Smithtown Bay	+0	03
Cranes Neck Point	+0	05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0	03
New Haven Harbor	−0	08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0	08
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